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USSR Report

AGRICULTURE

No. 1391



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MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' VIEWS PROGRESS OF IRRIGATION WORK

PM230820 Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 12 Jun 83 p 2

[USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources agricultural review:
"On the Irrigated Land Tracts"]

[Text] The weather is hot in the south of the country. The time has now come to irrigate the agricultural crops.

This year the kolkhozes and sovkhoses have 110,000 power pump units and 132,000 sprinklers. True, in Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, and Tajikistan this equipment has not been fully repaired (and time will not wait!) but in the majority of regions of the country there is every opportunity for carrying out rapid irrigation. Today the main bid for the harvest is being made on irrigated fields! Here much depends on the standard of organization of work on the kolkhozes and sovkhoses themselves, on effective aid to them by the land reclamation subdepartments, the State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture organizations, and the Fregat leasing and operation bases. We are not talking simply of "gross" cubic meters of water delivered to the fields but of precise, scientifically substantiated timetables and norms by which the crops' thirst is slaked.

According to operational figures, the first irrigation encompassed over 11.3 million hectares on all categories of farms, which is 1.4 million hectares more than the same period last year. But the high overall figure is still not evidence that everything is well everywhere. The average indicator conceals farms which have irrigated their land three times and farms which are late with the first irrigation.

In the light of the prevailing conditions, farms are somewhat ahead of schedule in irrigating in the Ukraine, where 83 percent of irrigated areas are covered by overhead irrigation. In the RSFSR 0.5 million more hectares have been irrigated than last year, but Voronezh, Tambov and several other oblasts are obviously behind schedule in this important work. What's the matter? Round-the-clock irrigation has not been organized, and the majority of sprinklers and pump stations stand idle during the night hours, which are the most effective. In Voronezh Oblast the arable farmers on the irrigated lands and the land reclamation workers have still not found the necessary contacts on the path to a collective contract geared to the end result--the harvest.

In the Volga region weather conditions are demanding that the pace of the irrigation be stepped up considerably. So far only 69 percent of areas envisaged by the plans are encompassed by irrigation here. In Ulyanovsk and Kuybyshev Oblasts 40 and 60 percent of the irrigated land respectively has received moisture. An unjustifiably small amount! One reason for the lag is the incomplete use of sprinklers because of the lack of sprinkler operators and machine operators for working day and night. Checking has shown that the situation is much the same on the farms of Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, where there is a shortage of about 700 operators and machine operators for the 24-hour use of sprinkling equipment.

A complex water resources situation exists in the Terek basin. But even on the farms of the Kabardino-Balkar, North Osetian, and Checheno-Ingush ASSR's, if procedures are observed and water is expended thriftily, an opportunity exists for encompassing considerably larger areas with irrigation than now, when only 36-62 percent of irrigated area have received moisture.

A considerable reserve for accumulating coarse and succulent fodder lies in secondary sowings and the watering of nonirrigated areas. On the farms of the Ukraine and Moldavia 217,000 and 100,000 hectares of nonirrigated land respectively have been watered. The RSFSR kolkhozes and sovkhozes are lagging behind with this. Checking has shown that a number of rayons of the RSFSR, Kazakh SSR, and Georgian SSR have not even earmarked the fields for secondary crops, although the time for sowing them is already at hand. It is to be supposed that the rayon agroindustrial associations will take this urgent matter under their control, enlisting the water resources organizations more vigorously to the search for opportunities for increasing the irrigated areas of fodder land.

CSO: 1824/450

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

IZVESTIYA VIEWS STATE OF IRRIGATED LANDS

PM290956 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jun 83 Morning Edition p 1

["Agricultural Review" by M. Ovcharov and O. Pavlov: "Busy Days on the Irrigated Field"]

[Excerpt] The USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources has told us that this year work on irrigated land is proceeding in a more organized and rhythmical manner than it did last year. These are the generalized data.

A drought is to be observed in Central Asia, and the local soviets and agro-industrial associations are directing farms toward the rational, economical use of moisture. Everywhere specialists are monitoring the work of the mirabs [elected officials in charge of water allocation] and recommending that irrigation be carried out round the clock, in a measured manner, and that water be applied to the cotton fields in a concentrated jet--that reduces losses en route. The leading farms are carrying out irrigation simultaneously throughout the sector. Artesian wells, the reuse of waste water, and an increase in the number of pumps at these establishments are a reserve for supplementing water resources. Even salt water, mixed with spring water, is used in many places. In the Ukraine, where there has been dry weather for a long time in a number of regions, careful use is also being made of water and irrigation equipment.

There are many irrigated land areas in the RSFSR. And the biggest irrigation region here is the Volga basin in its middle and lower sections. There are 1.3 million hectares of irrigated land here. And the fields of Saratov Oblast, covering 413,000 hectares, are one of the largest areas. Of these 300,000 are sown to fodder. This year sown grasses--and they include the most productive alfalfa--have ripened earlier than usual. The fodder production workers are trying to embark on the harvest without any hesitation. Understandably: The grass crops' maturation depends on how rapidly they carry out the first cutting. As a result an extra cutting and sometimes a fourth or even a fifth cutting can be gained.

It is in this mood that the arable farmers of the southernmost, most arid rayon--Novouzenskiy Rayon--have come out onto the irrigated fields with their mowing machines. The fodder harvesting process has operated harmoniously on the 1,000-hectare alfalfa field at the Imeni XXII Parsezda Kolkhoz. The

yield is excellent--150 quintals of green matter per hectare. What is the explanation?

Above all the collective contract--Kolkhoz Chairman N. Nikshis is convinced at that. For several years they tested the progressive form of organizing work on the farm in various production sectors. And this year the entire fodder procurement "shop" has switched to the contract--11 equal nonregulated links placed on equal terms.

The remuneration of labor here, as is customary, is based on end results--the quantity and quality of fodder procured. And that obliges the workers to work very fruitfully.

In Kuybyshev Oblast this form of organizing and paying labor is also becoming increasingly widespread. On the oblast's irrigated lands (incidentally, last year they increased over 10,000 hectares here, topping 142,000 hectares) half the arable farmers are working under the collective contract. The contract did not arise here arbitrarily, as, unfortunately, still happens. It was generated by the volume of irrigated arable farming in the oblast and its capital-intensiveness. The Kuybyshev irrigation canal and the Tolyatti, Spasskoye, and Olgino irrigation systems operate here. In the past 10 years the state has allocated about \$200 million to the oblast for land reclamation needs. Some 88 percent of all irrigated lands have a closed irrigation network.

There are many farms here which make good use of the funds invested. The Solnechnyy Sovkhoz, Privolzhskiy Rayon, obtained 31.5 quintals of grain crops from each of 5,500 hectares. On the Olginskiy Sovkhoz, Bezenchukskiy rayon, the collectives working under contract harvested an average of 65 quintals of fodder units from each irrigated hectare. All the irrigated land in Bolsheglushitskiy, Pestravskiy, Bolshchernigovskiy, Chelno-Versinskiy, Neftegorskiy, Kinel-Cherkasskiy, and Shentalinskiy rayons is now under contract.

Many of the oblasts rayons are now completing the second irrigation and are working in close collaboration with the agroindustrial association specialists.

And that is important--constantly feeling the specialists' aid. After all, spring was wetter than usual in the Volga Region. As a result the traditional work schedules on the irrigated fields have shifted. Indeed, once rain has fallen, why irrigate? In this situation, experience shows that attention must be very vigilant. For instance, the soil's water content dropped sharply in the South and Southwest of Volgograd Oblast in the last days of May. Svetloyarskiy, Kalachevskiy, and Ilovinskiy rayons had predicted this and promptly provided the land with as much moisture as it needed.

But by early June Bykovskiy, Nikolayevskiy, Uryupinskiy, Rudnyanskiy, and Oktyabrskiy rayons had not even been able to carry out the first irrigation completely, although here too the soil rapidly lost its moisture stocks. Yet here too contract links are operating. Yes, they have obviously only been organized formally.

There is one further most substantial obstacle on the path of contract collectives. Irrigation equipment is being improved. Highly productive "Fregat" and "Volzhanka" units are operating on the farms and machines of a new generation--the "Kuban"--are coming in. But the fodder harvesting equipment is lagging behind the irrigation equipment. As a result many collectives which have grown a good harvest are not managing to bring it in promptly. And this, after all, is also a blow to the contract inflicted by the machine builders, deliberately or otherwise.

For instance, here is the situation which has taken shape on the Chapayev Kolkhoz, Ivanteyevskiy Rayon, Saratov Oblast. Excellent alfalfa has grown here. It has already flowered everywhere, yet they have scarcely started harvesting or cutting it.... Is that not strange? It transpires that for normal, rhythmical work A. Ponomarev's contract link needs at least two fodder harvesting combines, but was given only one, and that unrepaired. The machine operators worried and worried over it, but were unable to repair it. Yet the grass has been standing too long....

Unfortunately, in Saratov Oblast and other oblasts of the Volga Region these are not isolated instances. And this is a direct rebuke to the leaders of the rayon agroindustrial associations, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and all production organizations. For instance, how is it that this same Chapayev Kolkhoz has reported the creation of contract collectives, yet they are standing idle? And does this not undermine the prestige of a highly effective form of organizing labor?

It should also be noted that by the time work started the State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture and the farms had failed to fully prepare the power pump units, sprinklers, and irrigating machines. The level of use of the "Fregat" units in the RSFSR and many rayons of the Volga Region was even lower than last year. If we are speaking of the Volga Region, their lowest readiness level is in Ulyanovsk Oblast. Of course, these shortcomings also erect obstacles to the contract, because its success always depends on the reliability of the entire production chain.

Why, in talking of the use of the irrigated hectare, do we recall the collective contract so persistently today? Because the contract and the irrigated field were created one for the other, as it were. If the introduction of the contract has been accompanied by certain difficulties (connected with the drought, for instance) in risky arable farming zones, success here can and must be constant and depends on the organization of work and discipline. It is not that complex to reduce these quantities to a common denominator and ultimately to a good and stable harvest, which will recoup the state's expenditure on irrigation.

CSO: 1824/450

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

SERIOUS EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS IN KEMEROVO OBLAST DISCUSSED

Moscow TRUD in Russian 6 May 83 p 1

/Article by collective correspondent of TRUD and Editorial Board of newspaper KUZBASS: "Siberia: Prior To Moving Out Onto the Fields"/

/Text/ With each passing day, the borders of the sowing campaign are moving closer to the fields of Siberia. Snow still lies on the fields in the northern part of Kemerovo Oblast and the farmers in the steppe regions of the Kuznetsk Basin are carrying out moisture retention work. On many farms the winter crops are being provided with the needed fertilizer top dressing. The problems concerned with preparing the farms for the sowing campaign are being given priority attention at the present time.

For several years in a row now, the workers in Tyazhinskiy Rayon have been intensifying their production of grain. Last year, more than 23 quintals of grain per hectare were obtained at the Kolkhoz imeni Kutuzov. Many other farms have surpassed the 20 quintal yield level. And this year the farmers in this rayon have no intention of abandoning the position they have achieved. All of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes have been fully supplied with high quality seed for regionalized varieties. The equipment was repaired in keeping with the planned schedules.

And yet in Chebulinskiy, Tisul'skiy and Mariinskiy Rayons, which are located in the same climatic zone as Tyazhinskiy Rayon, the picture is entirely different. Let us look at the problem of equipment repair. An inspection carried out at the Kiyskiy and Tyazhinskiy Sovkhozes in Mariinskiy Rayon revealed that a considerable number of machines on the farms were dismantled and that repair work was being carried out in a poor manner. And at the Koleul'skiy Sovkhoz the plows, cultivators and harrows could not be moved from the site: they were abandoned in the autumn and they appear to be frozen to the ground in the machine yard.

An alarming situation prevails in Tisul'skiy Rayon. At the Sibir' Sovkhoz the equipment was operated to the point of exhaustion during the winter, with no assistance being sought from the technical servicing point. Thus the machines here are inoperable. Nor is the situation any better at the Dudetskiy Sovkhoz or at a number of other installations.

On the whole it would appear that Chebulinskiy Rayon is in good shape with regard to the preparation of equipment. But it is one thing to see the summaries and quite another to see the equipment in operation. A number of the machines are simply not ready to be moved out onto the fields.

Leninsk-Kuznetskiy Rayon serves as an example of serious preparations for sowing. Here all of the towing equipment was long ago repaired. At the Pobeda Kolkhoz, for example, the soil cultivation and sowing equipment was moved up to the readiness line during the early part of January. Almost all of the units were formed up and moved out onto the fields in April: connect up a tractor and work could commence at any time.

The training of machine operator personnel was carried out in many rayons throughout the oblast. Thus, only recently at the Put' K Kommunizmu Kolkhoz in Promyshlennovskiy Rayon they were puzzled regarding one problem prior to moving out onto the fields: where could they obtain tractor operators? Up to 20 percent of the tractors lay idle. But for several years now the kolkhoz has been training ten machine operators annually.

However, for the oblast as a whole the training of machine operators leaves a great deal to be desired. This problem warrants attention from the farm specialists and the leaders of the oblast agroindustrial association.

In recent years, a certain amount of experience has accumulated in the use of collective contracts in agriculture in the Kuznetsk Basin. The names of Brigade Leader I. Aleksandrov of the Promyshlennovskiy Sovkhoz and team leaders A. Shilov of the Vpered Sovkhoz in Novokuznetskiy Rayon and E. Puzanovaya of the Udiarnik Poley Kolkhoz in Promyshlennovskiy Rayon are familiar ones throughout the entire oblast. The example set by the collectives headed by them is attracting others. At the present time, 200 brigades and teams are operating according to the new form for labor organization and their number is constantly increasing. For example, last year there were 40 contractual teams and brigades in Leninsk-Kuznetskiy Rayon and this year there will be approximately 70. At the Pobeda Kolkhoz, one of three sectors is converting over to the contract method.

For the agricultural workers in the Kuznetsk Basin there is no more important task than that of being completely ready for the field operations.

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MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

SPRING FIELD WORK, DIFFICULTIES IN KRASNOYARSK KRAY

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 20 May 83 p 1

[Article: "Each Hour Valued Highly"]

[Text] Upon setting out to tour the fields of the Kindyakovskiy section of the Yesaul'skiy Sovkhoz in Berezovskiy Rayon, the farm's chief agronomist I. Politayev was convinced that work would be in full swing in connection with the sowing of peas and annual grasses. The picture which greeted him was quite different. Units of equipment were standing idle along the edges of fields with not a soul around them.

"The tractors have bogged down and are inoperable" explained the head of the section.

The "Uazik" of the chief agronomist immediately made a sharp turn and at no point did it become stuck in the mud.

On the evening of the same day, the sovkhoz's party committee held a meeting. The communists raised the problem of not tolerating any delays in the sowing schedules during the busy period. Those guilty of inefficient equipment usage, unjustified delays and low quality preparation of the fields had to account for their actions before their comrades.

And the work improved. The farmers completed sowing their early potatoes 10 days earlier than planned and thereafter they commenced sowing the principal food crop -- wheat.

"The spring crop fields in Krasnoyarsk Kray consist of almost 3 million hectares" stated the chief agronomist of the kray's agricultural administration V. Kholodenko, "The optimum periods for sowing the grain crops are at hand. But the weather favors the carrying out of field work only in the southern and central regions of the kray. Spring arrived late by 2 weeks in the northern and eastern sections of Krasnoyarsk Kray. On the one hand this was good in view of the fact that winter produced an unprecedented amount of snow and on the other hand it was bad since the optimum sowing periods had been condensed. In such a situation, a high value is placed upon each hour of time. The prerequisites for successful work had been created -- all of the kray's sowing equipment had been prepared for operations prior to 1 January.

The kray's farmers are displaying concern for the fertility of each hectare of land. The farms in Yermakovskiy, Yeniseyskiy, Bolyshe-murtinskiy, Novoselovskiy, Tyukhtetskiy and Sukhobuzimskiy Rayons and in the Khakass Autonomous Oblast fulfilled on schedule their annual tasks for delivering organic materials to the fields. Against this background it is difficult to understand the position taken by the leaders of the Kanskiy, Kozul'skiy, Manskiy, Nizhneingashskiy, Sharypovskiy and a number of other RAPO's where the shipments of organic fertilizers in behalf of this year's harvest have been dragged out unjustifiably.

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CSO: 1824/370

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

SOWING PREPARATIONS IN NOVOSIBIRSK OBLAST DISCUSSED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 24 Apr 83 p 1

/Article by P. Chernov, Novosibirsk Oblast: "Raising the Return From the Land"/

/Text/ Unstable spring weather prevails in Siberia. At times snow, followed by rain and then a thaw period. According to data supplied by the Western Siberian Administration of the Hydrometeorological Service, the moisture supplies in the Barabinsk zone ranged from 108 to 200 millimeters, in the Kulunda zone -- 90-105 and in the Central-Eastern zone -- 120-190 millimeters. They have been evaluated as being fully satisfactory.

Nevertheless the accumulation, retention and efficient consumption of moisture for development of the harvest is considered to be a matter of priority importance here. Retention of the thaw waters and also other moisture accumulation measures have been carried out in Tatarskiy, Vengerovskiy, Karasukskiy and Ordynskiy Rayons.

Many farms have prepared thoroughly for the sowing operations. More soil cultivation and sowing equipment has been repaired at kolkhozes and sovkhoses throughout the oblast than was the case by this same time last year. Such machines and equipment have been moved up to the readiness line in many rayons.

A great amount of work has been carried out in connection with introducing zonal farming systems into operation, particularly for mastering scientifically sound crop rotation plans. The structure of the area under crops is being improved. The fallow fields are being expanded and more widespread use is being made of anti-erosion measures. The new organs of control -- RAPO's /rayon agroindustrial association/ are devoting special attention to improving substantially the protein balance of feeds by increasing the sowings of pulse crops, alfalfa and peas. Considerable reliance is being placed upon raising the yields: more than 7 million tons of humus have been applied to the fields. This is more than ever before. At the present time, the machine operators are holding meetings in all areas and the working plans are being defined more precisely.

A great amount of work is being carried out in connection with improving the economic mechanism for controlling agricultural production. The workers

attached to the oblast organs, jointly with scientists from the Institute of Agricultural Economics of the Siberian Branch of VASKhNIL /All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V.I. Lenin/ in Novosibirskiy, Kochenevskiy and Kolyvanskiy Rayons, are working out the principles for mutual relationships between partners in the agroindustrial complex.

The chairman of the council for the Kochenevskiy RAPO, S. Novotorzhentsev, stated:

"Owing to the absence of an accurate soil analysis, fertilizer was applied earlier by eye, despite the fact that raysel'khozkhimiya was required to carry out this work on a scientific basis. Quite often the association shipped the mineral fertilizers to those areas where it was profitable to do so. Today such problems are being eliminated. Under the new conditions, the rayon agroindustrial association monitors in a strict manner the formation of the production program for allied workers, all of whom are under an obligation to satisfy mainly the requirements of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses."

During a meeting of the council of the Kochenevskiy RAPO, a report was delivered by specialists attached to the rayon agricultural administration and Sel'khoztekhnika regarding the work to be carried out in order to eliminate unproductive losses in working time during the assembly of equipment. The problem with regard to organizing the polishing of engine crankshafts and introducing diagnostics for isolating defects in K-700 tractors was reviewed. The positive influence of RAPO activity on the timely preparations for sowing was especially apparent during the introduction of the zonal system of farming. In Kochenevskiy Rayon they are boldly changing the ratio of grey grains, pulse crops and wheat. This will make it possible to increase the gross grain yields and to relieve the situation during the harvest period.

RAPO is opening up a broad path for brigade contracts. Last year there were 102 non-schedule teams in field crop husbandry at kolkhozes and sovkhoses and this year -- 460. Positive examples of the work of such teams are to be found in each rayon and on each farm. Last year the cropping power for grain crops in such subunits was 18 percent higher than the average for the oblast.

The seed has been prepared better than in the past. Eighty percent is classified as being of 1st or 2d class. It is noted that even on farms in Kulunda zone, where drought conditions precluded the possibility of obtaining full-value grain, a considerable portion of the seed was raised to 1st class condition. Thus, 49 percent of the seed in Karasukskiy Rayon was classified as being 1st class of the sowing standard, Dovolenskiy Rayon -- 41 and in Tatarskiy Rayon -- 75 percent.

Spring arrived late in Siberia this year. This tends to squeeze together all of the operations to be carried out in the spring. This is why the grain growers are placing a high value on each hour of time as they establish a reliable foundation for the harvest.

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

RESOWING OF WINTER CROPS IN POLTAVA, KHARKOV OBLASTS

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 22 Apr 83 p 1

Article by N. Demikhovskiy, Poltava - Kharkov Oblasts: "First Concern for the Grain"/

Text One of the chief tasks which the farmers in the Ukrainian forest-steppe region are engaged in solving at the present time is that of obtaining without fail the planned harvest of grain crops. In Poltava Oblast, everything is easier in this regard -- the winter crops are in fine condition. There are many farms on which there is no need to resow even one hectare of wheat or rye. Such farms are also to be found in Kharkov Oblast. But here the winter crop fields appear somewhat worse.

Such contrasts must serve as an object lesson for the future. It turns out that resowing is not inevitable, nor is one always justified in blaming the need for it on the weather. Indeed, all of the farms were subjected to the same conditions: dryness, precipitation, snow and frosts. Yet the results turned out to be different. Why?

"In addition to other factors" stated I.Z. Kudrya, the chairman of the Kolkhoz imeni Sverdlov in Lozovskiy Rayon in Kharkov Oblast, "the status of the winter crop fields is also dependent upon timely plowing, thorough fertilization of the fields, the sowing of high quality seed and proper selection of predecessor crops. The grain growers know which are the best predecessor crops. And at the same time they are also well aware of the harmful effect of stubble, especially winter crop stubble, on a subsequent sowing of winter crops."

When the discussion concerned those decisive factors which affect the preservation of the crops, my cohorts in Poltava Oblast -- the leaders of farms and RAPO /rayon agroindustrial association/ specialists and workers -- gave proper credit to the non-mouldboard system of soil preparation and then stressed the importance of the predecessor crops. Some of them "aid" the seedlings in all types of weather, while others destroy them down to the very embryo. This is why the best wheat, following wintering, appears in those regions where stubble occupied the smallest proportion of the land.

Experience warrants attention. And today the farmers are displaying concern for this year's winter crop fields. Top dressings are actively being applied

to the crops in all areas on a selective basis, strengthening mainly the "health" of weak and satisfactory tracts. Mineral fertilizers furnish well developed crops and yet caution must be exercised to ensure that they are not overfed. In particular, root top dressings are being employed on an extensive scale. In Lozovskiy Rayon, for example, many farms -- included among them are the kolkhozes Rodina, Zarya Kommunist, imeni Ordzhonikidze, imeni Sverdlov and imeni Kalinin -- applied root top dressings to their entire winter grain areas. This same procedure is being followed by a number of kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Sakhnovshchinskiy and Pervomayskiy Rayon in Kharkov Oblast.

As never before, the specialists are displaying creativity in selecting the forms for the top dressings and the composition of the mineral fertilizers in accordance with the condition of each field. Creativity is also being manifested in the individual use of an entire series of traditional agronomical methods. For example, it was not too long ago that harrowing of the winter crops was considered to be an absolutely mandatory measure for all to follow. The disking and packing of plantings were also included in the set of rules. But experience has shown that these methods are not mandatory for general use. Today they have almost completely abandoned harrowing in Poltava Oblast in the belief that each unnecessary and even useless trip by a machine or implement over a field exerts a harmful effect on the plants and on the soil's condition. The Kharkov farmers are not rejecting these agricultural methods this spring but they are using them on a selective basis.

Similar initiative and independence is being displayed on the farms in the selection of crops for resowing. In some rayons in Kharkov Oblast, for example Gotval'dovskiy and Lozovskiy Rayons, corn is being planted on almost one half of the area subject to resowing, with barley, peas, buckwheat and millet being planted on the other half. Barley predominates on the resowing tracts in Pervomayskiy and Sakhnovshchinskiy Rayons. Here it is capable of furnishing 30 or more quintals of grain per hectare. With such yields it can be said that the wheat which perished was replaced by a rich substitute.

With regard to the fertilization of the fields, especially corn fields, all of the Kharkov and Poltava farmers employed the same measures. Many kolkhozes and sovkhozes applied 25-30 tons of organic material and complete dosages of mineral fertilizer during the principal plowing work on the corn plantations and at the present time, in preparing the soil for sowing, they are actively continuing this work. The use of ammonia liquor and liquid complex fertilizers is especially in vogue in Kharkov Oblast. Dozens of motor vehicle trains with tanks are constantly moving back and forth between the agrochemical centers and the fields.

In this regard, mention should be made of the increasing role being played by rural agrochemists in the harvest campaign in Kharkov Oblast. Here we have in mind the Lozovskiy Agrochemical Center. It does not restrict its role to merely delivering the mineral fertilizers to the various areas and spreading organic materials on the fields. The agrochemists view their chief task as being that of teaching the farmers to use fertilizers efficiently, relying upon the readings of the agrochemical charts. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Lozovskiy Rayon have plans for the use of fertilizer which contain data on the amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fertilizer allocated to a farm,

the amounts that were applied in the autumn, the amounts to be applied in order to obtain the planned yield and the amounts to be applied with a cultivator, simultaneously with sowing and in a top dressing. For some crops, particularly grain corn, the norm even exceeds the requirement somewhat. Thus a farmer does not blindly await the final result, but rather he designs it to be roughly that which is required.

Still another important innovation this spring in Poltava and Kharkov Oblasts is the use in all areas of the incrustation method for corn seed. The essence of this method consists of treating the seed with a special inexpensive solution which covers the grain with a thin transparent film that provides protection against diseases and pests. And the seedlings develop normally in all types of weather. Using simple home-made equipment and assisted by Sel'khoztekhnika, the farms and the grain receiving points are preparing such seed for the entire sowing area.

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MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

NEW SOIL CULTIVATION TECHNOLOGY IN USE IN ZAPOROZHYE OBLAST

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by S. Troyan, Zaporozhye: "A Maneuver Which Promises Success"]

[Text] Spring arrived unusually early this year in the southern part of the Ukraine.

The onslaught of heat was sudden and decisive. Nevertheless the sowing of early cereal grain crops, the areas of which had to be expanded considerably owing to unfavorable weather conditions experienced last autumn, was carried out in an efficient and harmonious manner on almost every farm.

The lands of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses in Vol'nyanskiy Rayon stretch out almost to Zaporozhye. The dry autumn and snowless winter did not saturate the fields with moisture. But compared to other rayons, the farmers in Vol'nyanskiy Rayon obtained healthier winter crop seedlings.

It was at the Kolkhoz imeni Il'ich that I met the 1st secretary of the rayon party committee V. Veretel'nik. He was standing at the edge of a field of winter wheat and holding a discussion with a manager of a section V. Litvinenko.

"We have just completed removing weeds from this tract" stated Litvinenko, "We are confident that the increase in yield will amount to 4-5 quintals."

Yes this present spring is considerably more troublesome than former spring periods. The winter crops must be examined and given a top dressing so as to encourage their growth and make them stronger. Moreover there can be no delay in the sowing and tending of the spring crops.

The secretary of the rayon committee V. Veretel'nik stated:

"During the past five-year plan, the rayon's farms obtained an average of 30 quintals of winter crops per hectare. In 1982 they obtained almost 36. This was the result of having converted over from the traditional plow method of tilling the soil to the surface or non-mouldboard method of cultivation. For the winter crops the fields are tilled only to 8-10 centimeters. A firm program was followed of not sowing grain crops following stubble predecessor crops."

This year the consistency in which the work was carried out aided the workers in Vol'nyanskiy Rayon in reducing the resowing of winter crops considerably compared to their neighbors and in rapidly planting the seed for their early cereal grain crops in the soil. Of 12,500 hectares which were set aside for barley, oats and peas, two thirds of the are were prepared in the autumn without plows. This is why the farmers required less than 35 hours for sowing this area. Special attention was given to the quality of the work and the seed was planted together with fertilizer.

The introduction of the "non-mouldboard" system in the rayon began in the early 1970's. And it is now believed that during very damp years, which occur in the zone extremely rarely, non-plow tilling of the soil furnishes the same yields as does plowing and during dry years, of which this present year is one, non-plow tilling produces a considerable increase in the grain yields. The Kolkhoz imeni Il'ich and the Petromikhaylovskiy Sovkhoz which were two of the first to "retire" the plow, last year obtained averages of 39.5 and 47.4 quintals of wheat per hectare respectively.

Here the example set by the Kolkhoz Dnepr is often discussed. Here they deviated from the rule by plowing one of the winter crop fields on which alfalfa was grown earlier and on a second field they employed a sweep following a harvest of corn for silage. The result: on that portion where they turned over the bed the wheat never even sprouted last autumn and yet alongside, on the second field, fine seedlings were obtained!

In Primorskiy Rayon, which is located at some distance from Vol'nyanskiy Rayon in the vicinity of the Azov Sea, many advocates of the sweep method are today comparing the operational results of the Avrora Kolkhoz, which rejected the plow, and neighboring farms -- imeni Kirov, Michurin, Pamyat' Lenin. Compared to the Avrora Kolkhoz, which over the past 2 years obtained an average of 30 quintals of grain, the neighboring farms obtained yields which were 3.5-5 quintals less.

Still another innovation appeared in Vol'nyanskiy Rayon. Here we have in mind occupied fallow. But not simply occupied, rather sainfoin fallow as they refer to it here. At the present time, under a cover of spring barley, they have sown perennial grass on 5,000 hectares. Such a combination, in addition to producing an economy in the use of space and making it possible to obtain grain, also serves to raise the fertility of the soil. Barley is harvested from these fields during the summer. And in June of next year they will obtain 250 quintals of fodder and following surface tilling winter crops will be sown in the autumn. The wheat is developing well on nitrogen saturated hectares and promises a generous yield.

The Zaporozhye farmers are solving the problem of preparing the soil for sowing in close collaboration with the scientists. Workers attached to the Scientific-Production Association for Corn "Dnepr" have taught many farms how to use the Slavutich unit -- a cultivator with a levelling board and packing rollers that guarantees uniform placement of the seed. An entire family of interchangeable working organs for the KPG-250, KPG-2-150 and KPP-2.2 soil cultivation machines which do not have analogs in international practice were created jointly with specialists of the Southern Branch of the Ukrainian Scientific-Research

Institute of Mechanization and Electrification of Agriculture at the Melitopol
Institute for the Mechanization of Agriculture.

But there is another alarming factor. The collective of inventors obtained its first patent in 1976 and the second -- in 1979. As you can see, a considerable amount of time elapsed and an industrial batch -- slightly more than 700 sets -- was prepared only by the Melitopol'prodmash Association. The time has come for enterprises which specialize in the production of equipment for the rural areas to join in this work.

The oblast's agricultural administration supplied me with some information: of 970,000 hectares which are being allocated for grain crops, 700,000 are being cultivated using the new technology.

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MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

CORN SOWING OPERATIONS IN ODESSA OBLAST

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 30 Apr 83 p 1

/Article by A. Soldatskiy, Odessa Oblast/

/Excerpts/ As early as the first decade in April, the orchards in the Black Sea region began blossoming. And according to an ancient peasant belief, it is time to sow the corn once the apricots are in bloom. And thus many kolkhozes and sovkhoses have sown their corn for green feed and silage on considerable areas. In addition to raised temperatures, this risky step on the part of the farmers was also prompted by a loss of moisture from the upper soil layer.

And then the seedlings began to appear during the last 10 days in April -- also an unusual phenomenon even for the southern Ukraine. Today the operations in the field have merged, with the sowing being carried out simultaneously with tending the row crops. This work has been organized in an efficient manner on a majority of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses. A positive effect was generated by measures implemented during the winter. Having noted that the autumn conditions did not favor the winter crops (the sowing had to be carried out in dry land), the decision was made in the oblast to augment the grain balance by means of corn. It will occupy 270,000 hectares, with sowings for green feed -- 400,000 hectares. The sowings of sunflowers, fodder beets and other row crops were expanded.

On the farms, all of the old corn sowing machines were restored and new ones acquired. At the present time, more than 2,000 sowing units are being operated out on the fields on a daily basis. The party committees and rayon agroindustrial associations are exercising control over the sowing of the corn and sunflowers. In Tatarbunarskiy Rayon, for example, all of the members of the bureau of the rayon party committee and the members of the RAPO council have been assigned farms; they furnish assistance in the various areas in improving the organization of the work. Such a measure is justified. Indeed, 18,000 hectares were allocated for grain corn and thus the plans call for 100,000 tons of grain to be obtained.

Many corn experts have developed in Tatarbunarskiy Rayon. This year they must prove their expertise once again.

For the rayon as a whole, the sowing is being carried out in well prepared and well fertilized soil. The machine operators have created units which can

carry out 3-4 operations during one pass by a tractor. This has shortened the schedules for the more important work and it has also lowered expenditures.

The sowing of corn is nearing completion for the most part in Tatarbunarskiy, Bolgradskiy, Belgorod-Dnestrovskiy and other southern rayons in the oblast. Only the hybridization tracts remain and these are to be sown during the optimum periods. Yes the sowing of the crop is coming to an end for the oblast as a whole. The farms are commencing the tending of their row crops. Their chief intent -- to achieve an increase in cropping power and to carry out successfully the high obligations they undertook for the third year of the 11th Five-Year Plan.

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CSO: 1824/377

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

BRIEFS

MASS SOWING OF GRAINS--Kurgan--The week which has just begun is one of the most tense ones for the oblast's grain growers. The mass sowing of grain crops commenced yesterday on all of the farms. The farmers must sow approximately 100,000 hectares daily. The non-schedule system of labor organization is proving to be of assistance in combining high speed rates with high quality work. /Text/ /Moscow TRUD in Russian 17 May 83 p 1/ 7026

100,000 HECTARES SOWN--Kurgan, 6 May--The machine operators in the Trans-Urals region have harrowed their fallow and autumn plowed land in all areas. They have sown more than 100,000 hectares in annual and perennial grasses and a portion of the areas to be used for spring wheat. But the principal sowing work lies ahead; it will commence in the middle of May. Within a brief interval of time, they must sow wheat, peas, oats, barley and other crops. Thirty thousand machine operators are constantly at work out on the fields. A considerable amount of work is being carried out this year in connection with mobilizing internal reserves for the purpose of increasing the production of agricultural products. With a raised sense of responsibility, 338 brigades and teams, a considerable number of which have converted over to the collective contract method, have joined in the work. New equipment is being introduced into operations on an extensive scale, particularly anti-erosion equipment -- cultivator-sweeps, BIG-3 harrows and stubble and grain-pressing sowing machines. The addition of a fine top dressing of fertilizers to the soil will have an effect on the growth of the crop. /by I. Shevchenko/ /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 7 May 83 p 1/ 7026

DELAYED SPRING--Kemerovo, 16 May--Spring came later than usual to the Kuznetsk land this year and thus the optimum periods for carrying out the spring work were reduced to a minimum. It was not until the end of the first 10 days in May that the sowing units moved out onto the arable land. One important task which the farmers are performing in an efficient manner is that of retaining moisture in the soil. During these tense spring days, the tone for this important work is being set by 375 contractual brigades and teams, all of which have undertaken high obligations in connection with the production of grain and forage crops. /by A. Parshintsev/ /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 17 May 83 p 1/ 7026

SEED FOR SOWING--Novosibirsk--The oblast's kolkhozes and sovkhoses have completed preparing their grain crop seed for spring sowing. The farmers in Tatarskiy Rayon, for example, have improved almost all of their seed grain to

a high condition. Special concern is being displayed for the new and promising varieties of spring crops -- Belozernyy oats, Obskiy barley and Neosypayushchensya peas, the areas for which have been expanded. /Text/ /Moscow GUDOK in Russian 15 Mar 83 p 1/ 7026

SNOW PLOWING--Novosibirsk, 16 Feb--The oblast's grain growers have commenced snow plowing work on their third million hectares. This year, for the very first time, packed snow drifts have been established over large areas. More than 500 mechanized detachments are participating in the work. /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 17 Feb 83 p 1/ 7026

UNUSUAL SPRING CONDITIONS--Novosibirsk Oblast--Even older residents could not recall such a spring occurring in western Siberia. Constant drops in temperature disrupted the usual course of natural phenomena. The first half of May has passed and the birch tree branches reflect only a slight green haze. Snow is still to be seen along the edges of forests and in ravines, despite the fact that the fields are already dry and losing moisture at an intensive rate. "The unusual spring conditions have confronted the Siberian farmers with many problems" stated the 1st secretary of the Zdvinskiy Rayon CPSU Committee V.G. Karpov, "But we are not frightened by the caprices of weather. With the specialists attached to the agronomical services displaying a creative approach to their work and the machine operators showing great interest in their endeavors, solutions can be found for any and all difficult situations. The vehicle raises a cloud of dust along the Siberian country road. And along the entire route from Zdvinsk to Novosibirsk, a panorama of spring field operations unfolds. The machine operators in Dovolenskiy Rayon are sowing annual grasses. It was some time ago that watering units joined in the work being carried out at the Bol'shevik Kolkhoz in Ordynskiy Rayon. The picture portraying spring field work in the oblast is rather varied in nature. And this is only proper, since each field has its own particular character. /by A. Usol'tsey/ /Excerpts/ /Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 May 83 p 1/ 7026

SPECIAL WORKING GROUP--Krasnoyarsk Kray--Compared to last year, a considerable increase has taken place throughout the kray in the number of non-schedule teams and brigades in field crop husbandry. "Last year, everything did not go well for us: equipment was taken away from a non-schedule team and seed and fertilizers were not supplied on a timely basis" related team leader A. Savel'yev of the Sukhobuzimskiy Sovkhoz, "This year the situation has changed. A special working group has been created in the rayon for checking upon observance of the principles of a collective contract." The team of A. Savel'yev has already completed sowing its potatoes and is preparing to sow corn. Last year it succeeded in lowering by threefold the production costs for this crop. A. Savel'yev and his comrades plan to work equally as well this year. /by I. Kozlov and A. Shchegolev/ /Text/ /Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 20 May 83 p 1/ 7026

TRACK REPAIR WORK--Vil'horevka--Spring came to Siberia late this year. It is already the middle of May and in the mornings white flakes whirl about in the air and now and then the temperature drops below zero. Despite these complicated conditions however, the machine operators of PMS-66 /Track Machinery Station/ successfully commenced the capital repair of track along the Chuna-Vikhorevka sector. During a 5-hour "window," against a norm

calling for 1,700 meters, the collective completed work on from 1,775 to 2,100 meters. /by K. Vaganova/ /Excerpt/ /Moscow GUDOK in Russian 20 May 83 p 1/ 7026

230 NON-SCHEDULE TEAMS CREATED--Krasnoyarsk, 13 May--The farmers in Minusinskiy Rayon were some of the first to commence the mass sowing of grain crops on the Yenisey fields. Twenty six non-schedule teams moved their units out onto the fields. They armed themselves with a zonal technology developed in the kray by scientists from the Krasnoyarsk NIISKh /Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture and the Siberian Branch of VASKhNIL /All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V.I. Lenin/. Productive use is being made of each good hour of time during this delayed spring on farms in other rayons of the Minusinsk Basin -- Shushenskiy, Yermakovskiy, Kurganinskiy and Krasnoturanskiy, which are all actively introducing the soil-protective system of farming. And here the cultivation of many crops has been entrusted to non-schedule teams. Thus, on fields in Krasnoturanskiy Rayon, 250 machine operators attached to teams are working on the basis of a collective contract. In all, 230 such teams were created throughout the kray this year. /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 14 May 83 p 1/ 7026

ZONAL FARMING SYSTEM--Kyzyl, 13 May--The mass sowing of grain crops has commenced on farms in the Tuva ASSR. It is being carried out in all areas taking into account the zonal system of farming developed by workers attached to the republic's agricultural experimental station in collaboration with the grain growers. Wide-swath stubble sowing machines have been moved out onto the spring crop fields, which occupy almost two thirds of the autonomous republic's arable land. The seed for regionalized varieties is being planted in the soil. Mineral fertilizer is being applied to the drill rows simultaneously with the sowing. /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 14 May 83 p 1/ 7026

LAND IMPROVEMENT WORK--Poltava--The oblast's feed procurement specialists have commenced work concerned with improving the productivity of their natural lands. The cultivation of fields, applications of fertilizers and undersowings of grasses are being carried out upon the recommendations of specialists attached to the Elita Scientific-Production Association. The recommendations take into account the peculiarities of each tract and the structure of the soils. Experiments have shown that precise observation of the prescribed agrotechnical methods can serve to raise by several times the return from the natural meadows. /Text/ /Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Apr 83 p 1/ 7026

GREEN PRODUCTION LINE--Ivano-Frankovsk, 27 Apr--A green production line has been developed at kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the Carpathian region: the machine operators are cutting down their winter rape. The animal husbandry farms are being supplied with green feed on a continuous basis. /by O. Matviiv/ /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 28 Apr 83 p 1/ 7026

RAPE IN BLOOM--Simferopol, 27 Apr--When an aircraft flies over the Crimean Peninsula, bright yellow squares can be seen in many areas -- the blossoming of rape. The sowings of this valuable feed crop are being expanded with each passing year. Rape blossoms early and on many farms it is cut down for cattle feed in the middle of April. /by A. Soldatskiy/ /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 28 Apr 83 p 1/ 7026

RIPENING OF PERENNIAL GRASSES--Donetsk, 25 May--The perennial grasses are ripening earlier than usual. The oblast's farms commenced their mowing operations just as soon as the alfalfa began budding. The harvesting of alfalfa and sainfoin is expanding in Donetskaya Oblast. /by G. Zhuravka/ /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 26 May 83 p 1/ 7026

SOWING OPERATIONS CONTINUE--The republic's machine operators have completed sowing their early spring crops. The seed for barley, oats, peas and feed cereal grain and pulse crop mixtures has been planted in arable land on vast areas in excess of 4.5 million hectares. More than 1 million hectares of winter crops were undersown and resown simultaneously. As never before, this great volume of work was performed by the kolkhoz and sovkhos workers in a rapid and organized manner. The farms in many rayons required only 60-80 hours in order to accomplish this. By concentrating their entire machine pool in 13,000 all-round detachments, they once again convincingly proved the advantages offered by large-group equipment usage. Considerable gain was also realized from the use of wide-cut and multiple-operation units. Moreover, a considerable number of mechanized teams and brigades commenced operating for the very first time on the basis of collective contracts, with wages based upon the final results. The interest being displayed in obtaining not only large quantities but also fine quality products is making it possible to avoid unproductive expenditures. This in turn is bringing about a reduction in production costs. During this very important period the farmers are continuing to sow their later crops and striving to do everything possible to ensure that the cropping power of the grain crops reaches 30-31 quintals per hectare. /by T. Arkushenko/ /Text/ /Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 10 Apr 83 p 1/ 7026

FLAX SOWING COMPLETED--Lutsk--The mass use of wide-cut units enabled the machine operators in Kovel'skiy Rayon to be the first in Volyn Oblast to complete their flax sowing work. The traditional cultivation of areas that were well tilled in the autumn, upon the advice of the scientists, has been replaced by harrowing here. This required the use of multiple-section souplings of heavy, medium and light implements. All-round units consisting of a cultivator, a farm leveller for smoothing out the soil, rollers and harrows were employed on other plantations. /Text/ /Moscow GUDOK in Russian 15 Apr 83 p 1/ 7026

FIRST CLASS BUCKWHEAT SEED--Kirovograd--The farmers in Kirovograd Oblast have completed their sowing of buckwheat. First class seed for the highly productive Kiyevskaya and Shatilovskaya-5 varieties have been planted in the soil. /Text/ /Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 May 83 p 1/ 7026

UKRAINIAN BUCKWHEAT SOWINGS--Kiev, 26 Apr--The largest buckwheat areas in the country are found in the Ukraine. Its plantations, on which sowing operations have commenced, occupy more than 335,000 hectares. This year this valuable

groat crop is being cultivated in almost all oblasts here. The experience of the farmers in Nezhinskiy Rayon in Chernigov Oblast is serving as a reference point for the mechanized detachments and teams, many of which have converted over to the use of brigade contracts. In keeping with the example set by the farmers in Nezhinskiy Rayon, the sowing is being carried out using the wide-row method, with a simultaneous application of superphosphate to the drill rows. A feature of this present season is the extensive introduction of the new Astra variety, developed by plant breeders at the Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Farming. It is well adapted to the republic's different soil-climatic zones. During testing it revealed a high cropping power -- more than 36 quintals of grain per hectare. This will aid in increasing considerably the yields for this product. /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 27 Apr 83 p 1/ 7026

EARLY COMPLETION OF SOWING--The Crimean farmers have completed sowing their early spring crops. This work was completed 1 week earlier than last year. /Text/ /Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 14, Apr 83 p 3/ 7026

CORN ACREAGE DOUBLED--Compared to last year, the areas being used for cultivating corn in Kharkov Oblast using an industrial technology have been expanded twofold. The machine operators, who have commenced their sowing work, will employ this technology on 86,000 hectares. /Text/ /Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 17, Apr 83 p 4/ 7026

RELIABLE FOUNDATION--Kiev, 10 May--The Ukrainian farmers, who have completed their sowing work, have established a reliable foundation for their harvest of corn for grain. Of the grain forage crops, the largest area has been set aside this year for this crop -- almost 2 million hectares. A chief feature of this present season is the mass introduction of the industrial technology. In conformity with the republic's Agrokompleks special program, eight out of every 10 hectares of plantations will be cultivated without the use of manual labor. The corn growers are making skilful use of their irrigation potential. More than 100 teams in the Crimea and dozens of collectives in Odessa, Kherson and a number of other oblasts plan to surpass the 100 quintal goal on their watered lands. /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 11 May 83 p 1/ 7026

ODESSA OBLAST RICE SOWINGS--Odessa, 15 Apr--The rice yields from the fields in Kiliyskiy Rayon are increasing with each passing year. This is being promoted by the use of leading experience and by concern for improving the reclamative status of the soil. The sowing machines have already been moved out onto the rice check plots at the Put' Lenin and Druzhba Kolkhozes and at the Pogranichnik Sovkhoz. The seed is being planted in well prepared and well fertilized soil. This year the oblast's farmers plan to obtain no less than 50 quintals of the white grain per hectare. /by A. Soldatskiy/ /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 16 Apr 83 p 1/ 7026

DIFFICULT WEATHER CONDITIONS--Zaporozhye Oblast--It is said that there is no such thing as easy grain -- this truth endured by many generations of grain growers applies in particular here in the dry steppe regions of the southern Ukraine. There is good reason for the steppe regions to be referred to as a zone of "risky farming." It happens every year. A grain grower, when defining his strategy and tactics, must necessarily undertake a certain amount of risk. For example, let us take the autumn of last year. The time arrived for sowing the winter crops and the land -- similar to chimney ash -- had been dried out by hot winds and the sun. How could this be? At the present time, the spring crops must be sown and the same condition prevails. Since autumn right up until the present day -- neither rain nor snow. On many fields the clods of plowed land are as hard as rocks. Neither harrows nor cultivators can cope with them. During the day the sun is very hot and at night a frost forms. Indeed, a grain grower who under these conditions has learned how to obtain stable grain crop yields of 25-30 quintals per hectare, as has happened here in recent years, should have a memorial erected in his honor during his lifetime. And there are many who are obtaining even higher yields. Notwithstanding the unstable spring weather, marked by frequent cold snaps, the emerald green lines of winter crops are day by day merging together to form an extensive carpet. These are the winter crops of the Kommunist Sovkhoz in Akimovskiy Rayon. This is a difficult spring period and yet a tour of the fields of the Kommunist Sovkhoz leaves one with a pleasant impression. This is because the fields are being tended by intelligent, thoughtful, tireless and diligent workers. You listen to them and you observe them at their work and you become convinced: a harvest will again be obtained from the hot solonetz soils of the steppe regions. /by N. Ivanchenko/ /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 16 Apr 83 p 1/ 7026

AROUND-THE-CLOCK WATERINGS--Zaporozhye--The spring fields in Zaporozhye Oblast are pleasing to the eye. Taking advantage of the early arrival of warm weather and taking into account the dry character of the weather, many farms throughout the oblast began watering their crops 2-3 weeks earlier than usual. Approximately 1,400 sprinkling machines have been included in the work. One third of them are being operated around-the-clock. More than one half of the irrigated areas have already been watered and there are 205,000 hectares in the oblast. The first watering of the winter crops and perennial grasses is nearing completion. /by N. Ivanchenko/ /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 9 May 83 p 1/ 7026

ZAPOROZHYE SOYBEAN CULTIVATION--Zaporozhye--This year the oblast's farmers, having completed sowing their soybeans, will cultivate this crop using only the industrial technology. For the very first time, the farms are satisfying completely their own requirements for 1st class seed for this crop. More than 8,000 hectares, two times more than last year, are presently sown in soybeans throughout the oblast. This will aid in strengthening the feed base for animal husbandry and increase the return from this branch. /Text/ /Moscow GUDOK in Russian 8 May 83 p 1/ 7026

HAYING OPERATIONS--Zaporozhye, 28 May--The early arrival of spring and the unusually high temperatures for this period have accelerated the ripening of the grasses. The oblast's kolkhozes and sovkhozes are moving their feed procurement equipment out onto the meadows and sown feed lands. Haying

operations have commenced in Vol'nyanskiy Rayon earlier than in other rayons and in a highly organized manner. /by N. Ivanchenko/ /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 29 May 83 p 1/ 7026

DEEP PLANTING OF SEED--Odessa--One out of every two hectares of rice plantation, the planting of which has been started by the farmers in the Danube River region, is being sown using a new technology -- with deep placement of the seed. In addition to earlier ripening of the grain, this also ensures a considerable increase in yield. [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 23 Apr 83 p 1] 7026

IMPROVED CROPPING POWER--Odessa Oblast--Even during the spring it was not difficult to notice that the weather conditions which prevailed in the south this year left their imprint on the work of the machine operators. They are carrying out each assigned task in a responsible manner. All field work is being carried out in a rapid and high quality manner. The fact that the machine operators are not being diverted from their work in order to repair their combines, as was earlier the case, is also enabling them to work at maximum capability. On a majority of the rayon's farms the harvest equipment has been prepared since autumn. During the course of a discussion, the 1st secretary of the Ovidiopol'skiy Rayon Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine N.P. Shchirskiy stated that the increase in the cropping power of the grain factors was caused by a number of factors. He first of all cited the improved culture of farming, the better utilization of fertilizers and the use of new varieties and hybrids. "We obtain no less than 4-5 quintals from each hectare merely by carrying out the harvest work rapidly and without losses" he stated. Today all of the elements of the future harvest have already been thought out in Ovidiopol'skiy Rayon. In the harvest plans, emphasis is placed upon the need for carrying out the work as rapidly as possible. Special devices have been prepared for combating losses. Each machine operator has been given the means required for adjusting individual units. Dry and hot weather prevails in the Black Sea region. This is accelerating the ripening of the grain crops. But today the machine operators are already prepared for the harvest operations. /by A. Soldatskiy/ /Excerpts/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 25 May 83 p 1/ 7026

CSO: 1824/377

LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

COMMENTARY OF BELORUSSIAN OFFICIAL ON REPUBLIC FEED STORAGE FACILITIES

Minsk SEL'SKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 May 83 p 2

/Commentary by 1st Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Belorussian SSR
F.V. Mirochitskiy/

/Text/ In recent years, intensive research has been carried out on the production of highly nutritious feed for livestock. It is generally recognized at the present time that the most effective type of feed for procurement and preservation purposes is that of haylage prepared in storehouses of the tower type.

This year the republic's farms must procure more than 5.7 million tons of haylage. Owing to a shortage of storehouses, a considerable portion of it, just as in the past, is being stored in unlined trenches and ground clamps. Here the feed losses amount to 20-25 percent.

Over the past few years, more than 1,200 tower storehouses have been built in the republic, with more than 36 million rubles being spent for this purpose. These facilities can accommodate one fifth of all of the haylage being procured and this makes it possible to eliminate losses amounting to approximately 60,000 tons of feed units.

However, as a rule the haylage towers are being utilized in a poor manner. More than one half of these storehouses are constantly empty. Last year, for example, only 509 of them were filled and in Mogilev and Grodno Oblast -- only one fourth of their number. From year to year these storehouses are not being used at the Kolkhoz imeni Engel's in Belynichskiy Rayon, the Rodina Kolkhoz in Nesvizhskiy Rayon or at the Doktorovichy Sovkhoz in Kopyl'skiy Rayon.

Only a lack of understanding of the importance of harvesting the grasses during the best periods and strict observance of all of the technological norms and rules for feed production can explain the reluctance of individual leaders to fill their tower storehouses.

Here is what the chairman of the Zarya Kolkhoz in Mogilevskiy Rayon Ya. Shapiro had to say in this regard: 'Work involving the use of towers is laborious and responsible and thus there is a reluctance in many areas to engage in this work. This leads to a situation wherein the haylage is placed in trenches

and the towers remain empty. On our farm everyone is of the opinion that the quality of tower haylage is superior to that of trench haylage. The chairman of the Kolkhoz imeni Kirov in Vitebskiy Rayon, M. Smorgonskiy, believes that the chief concern is that of overcoming the psychological barrier that exists in this matter: "Towers are storehouses which fully preserve the feed, whereas trenches cannot guarantee such preservation."

Certainly, it is considerably more complicated to work with towers than it is with trenches. The characteristics of the technology for procuring haylage in towers results in the following: either observance of all of the technological norms and rules and as a result -- high quality feed which is obtained easily and without losses -- or a violation of the technology and then instead of haylage -- rot, ash and worthless bulk. There is one major consideration: towers are unforgiving when it comes to even minor violations of the technological requirements. Herein lies their strength, since self-deception in the form of false reports regarding haylage procurements is eliminated.

The tower installations at the Mir Sovkhoz-Combine in Baranovichi are considered to be irreplaceable. From year to year, 34 such towers are filled here. The towers made it possible for this farm to eliminate haylage losses entirely, to mechanize the issuing of feed in the livestock facilities and to obtain the country's highest weight increases in large-horned cattle.

The leaders at the Kolkhoz imeni Zheleznyakovich in Korelichskiy Rayon apply themselves in a very responsible manner to the extensive use of haylage towers. Last year, of 34 towers available on farms in Rogachevskiy Rayon, 33 were filled with haylage. All of this feed, down to the last kilogram, was fed to the livestock. Whereas last year 1 kilogram of tower haylage in Baranovichskiy Rayon contained 0.32 feed units and 18.6 milligrams of carotene, in the case of trench feed the figures were only 0.19 feed units and 15 milligrams of carotene.

This year practically all of the farms having haylage towers are being provided with highly productive self-propelled equipment for feed procurement purposes. However, some farms are still not preparing their towers for filling, despite the fact that their construction involved large expenditures of resources. In particular, the leaders of the kolkhozes Pravda in Kletskiy Rayon, Oktyabr' in Lyakhovichskiy Rayon and some other farms are ignoring this work. As a result of a lack of personal responsibility and an irresponsible attitude towards such storehouses, the haylage towers at the kolkhozes Komintern in Mogilevskiy Rayon, imeni Engel's in Gorodokskiy Rayon and Pravda in Gantsevichskiy Rayons are completely unmanned. However, no action has been taken against those officials guilty of tolerating such mismanagement.

Based upon the experience of previous years, it follows that the filling of towers is as a rule carried out in those areas where there skilled and specially trained personnel. However the training of such personnel is disrupted each year in Minsk and Grodno Oblasts and no such training has been started here this year.

The oblasts have been assigned tasks calling upon them to ensure that all haylage towers are filled. Goskonsel'khoztekhnika for the BSSR and the

Baranovichi Combine for Haylage Towers must complete the preparation of the towers, ensure that the kolkhozes and sovkhoses are supplied with the units needed for replacing obsolete or broken down equipment and furnish assistance to the kolkhozes and sovkhoses in establishing order in the feed harvesting technology.

In order to create a raw materials base at kolkhozes and sovkhoses which have tower storehouses, cutting areas for perennial grasses must be established so as to ensure that sufficient fodder will be available for filling all of the towers.

Mechanized detachments having the required feed harvesting equipment and transport vehicles should be created on the farms for the purpose of ensuring continuous loading of the towers. Importance is also attached to defining material and moral incentive measures for the timely and high quality completion of work.

In those rayons where it is not possible to equip the kolkhozes and sovkhoses with self-propelled feed harvesting complexes, measures should be undertaken aimed at creating inter-farm detachments.

This year every tower must be filled.

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CSO: 1824/381

LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

EFFECT OF LAND AMELIORATION NEGLECT ON PASTURELAND FERTILITY

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 May 83 p 1

/Article: "Pasture Season"/

/Text/ The herds have been moved out onto the spacious meadows. The pasture season has commenced. In many regions of the country it has commenced earlier than usual and this is creating additional opportunities for increasing the production of meat, milk and other products.

At the present time, the chief efforts in animal husbandry must be concentrated on intensification of the branch and increasing the productivity of the farms to the maximum possible degree. Skilful work during the pasture season will promote the successful implementation of the food program, the fulfillment of which is considered by our party to be an urgent and vital task.

During the winter and spring the farm workers established a fine foundation for further growth in the production of goods. Increases have taken place at the kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the procurements of meat, milk and livestock. Considerable results have been achieved by the animal breeders in Lithuania, Krasnodar Kray, the Chuvash ASSR and in Kiev, L'vov and other oblasts. It is a matter of honor for the communists and all of the branch's workers to consolidate and further develop the results already achieved. Here the experience of leading collectives is proving to be of great assistance. Thus, by skilfully utilizing meadows for pasture purposes and having organized continuous deliveries of green feed to the farms, the Moscow Smena Sovkhoz and the Kolkhoz imeni K. Libknekht in Odessa Oblast are presently obtaining 16-18 kilograms of milk daily from each cow and at the Sovkhoz imeni Petrovskiy in Leningrad -- more than 20 kilograms.

The animal breeders have at their disposal vast haying and pasture lands and tens of millions of hectares of arable land on which forage crops are growing well. In short, all of the conditions are available for steady growth in the return from equipment and resources. Nevertheless, such equipment and resources are not being utilized in a thrifty manner in all areas. For example, many derelictions in the organization of feeding and in livestock maintenance operations have been uncovered on a number of farms in Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and the Turkmen SSR and thus the rates of growth for the milk yields in these regions are still low. As yet, fattening herds have not been formed nor shepherds selected in all areas in Ivanovo and Kalinin Oblasts. In some

areas no concern is being displayed for the mechanization of labor-consuming processes. The party and soviet organs in the various areas and the farm leaders must ensure that the summer production line on the farms is operated in a continuous manner and with maximum results.

An urgent task at the present time is that of tending the forage fields in the proper manner. The production of feed must be increased considerably and its quality improved. Correct action is being taken in those areas where the areas for protein and highly productive crops are being expanded, where secondary sowings are being employed and where everything is being done in the interest of obtaining fine grass, grain and silage yields. The new organs of administration in the rural areas and the communists assigned to them must devote a great amount of attention to these matters, in view of the fact that many farms are attempting to obtain grain from the state resources and are displaying only weak concern for increasing their own production of coarse and succulent feed. Each hectare of a forage crop field must furnish a full-weight high quality yield. Special attention must be given to the efficient use for these purposes of reclaimed and particularly irrigated land. As yet, such lands are not providing a full return in all areas owing to a low level of agricultural practices and a lack of attention being shown for them.

Natural haying and pasture lands can and must serve as a strong feed reserve. Their productivity is not high in all areas. However fertilization, radical improvements in the meadows and the carrying out of soil improvement work will increase their productive strength many times over. However the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources and its organs in the various areas, especially in the nonchernozem zone, are displaying sluggishness in this important work and quite often are not carrying out their established tasks. The rural workers are quite justified in expecting to receive a great amount of assistance from their partners. At the same time, an active stand must be taken by the kolkhoz and sovkhos leaders and specialists themselves in the use of reserves for raising the fertility of the meadows.

During the course of obtaining a high return from haying and pasture lands, the impending winter must be borne in mind. The scale and the tempo of the feed procurement operations are expanding with each passing day. In those areas where this work has still not commenced, all measures must be undertaken to ensure that thorough preparations are made for this most important campaign. The feed procurement equipment at kolkhozes and sovkhos in the Mary ASSR and in Rostov and a number of other oblasts has been repaired better than was the case last year. And yet many farms in the Altay Kray and in Amur, Irkutsk and Omsk Oblasts have not prepared a considerable number of their mowing machines or silage combines, nor have specialized brigades or non-schedule teams been formed in all areas. In a majority of regions throughout the country there is a shortage of standard facilities for the storage of forage. All of this indicates that the agroindustrial associations must devote greater attention to the green harvest and to the creation of a logistical base for the harvesting, storage and processing of feed. High haying rates must be achieved in all areas and the work schedules condensed so as to obtain an additional cutting of grasses. Moreover, this will serve as a guarantee for obtaining good quality hay. Last year a considerable quantity of forage turned out to be of sub-standard quality. The RAPO /rayon agroindustrial association/

councils, the party organizations and farm specialists must analyze thoroughly and in detail the reasons for these derelictions and do everything possible to prevent their occurring in the future.

This year the cities are furnishing more assistance for the fields and farms. A movement is underway at the industrial enterprises to carry out the orders received from the rural areas on schedule. A great amount of work is being carried out directly in behalf of animal husbandry, the summer maintenance of livestock and for the procurement of feed. Nevertheless, by no means are all of the partners as yet carrying out their contractual obligations. Once again the All-Union Soyuzpromkomplekztzhivmash Production Association, the Leningrad Kompleks Production Association and a number of others are under an obligation to the animal breeders. It is a matter of honor for the machine builders -- to fill the orders received from the rural areas in a timely manner and for the leaders of kolkhozes, sovkhoses and other enterprises of the agroindustrial complex -- to raise in a decisive manner the return being realized from the resources being made available to the farms.

An important concern of the party committees and primary party organizations is that of obtaining more meat, milk and other products during the pasture period. Those kolkhoz and sovkhos communists working in animal husbandry must set an example through creative and conscientious application to their work and responsibilities. All organizational and mass-political work being carried out on the farms must be directed towards the successful fulfillment of the plans and socialist obligations for the third year of the five-year plan and to raising the expertise of the livestock breeders. This will be promoted in a more active manner by the socialist competition and by the skilful use of moral and material stimuli.

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CSO: 1824/387

AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

ESTONIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY ASSESSES PROGRESS UNDER APK SYSTEM

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 May 83 p 3

[Article by A. Upsi, secretary to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Estonia: "Summation of Forces and Interests"]

[Text] Three years is a sufficient period for making a judgement as to whether or not a farm has come to a halt in its development, is making progress or is yielding ground. In the Pyarnuskiy Agroindustrial Association, such a period is considered to be critical. Upon its expiration each leader of a kolkhoz or sovkhov can decide whether or not he is suitable to serve as the leader of a modern farm or seek easier and less responsible work. Such high exactingness is embodied in the decisions handed down during the November (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and in the words of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yu.V. Andropov: "Importance is attached to improving the quality of work, accelerating its tempo and reducing production costs. This then is the urgent task that now confronts us."

The Pyarnuskiy Rayon Party Committee and RAPO have carried out a considerable amount of work in connection with the strengthening of nine backward farms that were here in 1979 -- they provided the farms with assistance from the centralized funds and they also supplied them with equipment and specialists. Today four of the farms have already been deleted from the list of backward farms. For the rayon as a whole, the cropping power for the grain crops, potatoes and forage crops has been raised considerably, milk production has been increased by 10,000 tons and meat -- by 2,000 tons. Even more important is the fact that there is not one farm in the rayon which has come to a halt in its progressive movement.

Eight years for Vilyandi, four years for Pyarnu and one and a half years for the republic's rayons. Such was the length of time required for the development, growth and strengthening of the new element for agricultural administration in the rayon -- agroindustrial associations. And recently this work underwent a logical extension -- a central organ for administration and coordination within the agroindustrial complex system was formed at the republic level -- Agroprom for the Estonian SSR.

What was wrong with the former administrative structure. It was mainly based upon departmental interests. Organizations responsible for providing services for agriculture lost their sense of responsibility for the final result of

agricultural production. They had their own indicators, which quite often were in conflict with the interests of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, that is, the direct producers.

The republic agroindustrial administrative and coordination center now combines the functions of the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Committee for Production-Technical Support for Agriculture and the State Committee for Land Reclamation and Water Resources, that is, it embraces the entire sphere of agricultural production. In addition, it is authorized to coordinate the activities of all ministries, departments and organizations included in the republic's agroindustrial complex. In addition, the chairman of the agroprom, similar to the 1st deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers for the Estonian SSR, is held directly responsible for the work of these ministries and departments. The structure of the agroindustrial association was created taking into account the fact that it would have to be both efficient and practical. The main administrations and administrations were combined for several functions which earlier were carried out simultaneously in Minsel'khos /Ministry of Agriculture/ and in Goskomsel'khos'tekhnika. Compared to the three departments which had been abolished, the staff of the republic association consisted of 80 fewer individuals. Thus an important goal was pursued when creating the associations -- to make the new organ of administration different in terms of its content. Subsequently the agroprom had to extend all of the best features embodied in the republic organ to the rayon associations.

The agroprom must carry out a great amount of work in connection with expanding the field of activity of cost accounting procedures, intensifying the role played by economic methods of administration and implementing improvements in planning. In essence, it must solve a large number of problems considered to be of exceptional importance for raising the efficiency of agricultural production.

An especially important problem -- the operational style of the new organization. The rates for further development of agriculture, solutions for the tasks established during the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the fate of the food program are all greatly dependent upon the solutions that are found for urgent problems at the republic level.

The reorganization which is taking place is not just a changing of signs or a rearrangement of chairs, but rather it is a serious internal reorganization of all operations. Orientation towards the final result assumes that the agroprom will combine the forces and interests of the various parts of the new organization into a single entity. Under the new conditions, great importance is attached to clearly defining the powers and responsibilities of each level of administration. Rather than a compilation of decrees, orders and references, there should be thorough knowledge of the situations in the various areas and lively and practical management -- this must be a distinctive feature of the new organization. Nor is it intended for the latter to issue instructions to the rayons. The specialists attached to rayon associations and farms, and we have a sufficient number of them, are skilled individuals who possess an excellent knowledge of what must be done and when.

The agroprom must first of all provide solutions for the many problems being raised by the rayon associations -- obtaining fertilizers, spare parts, fuel

and other resources on a timely basis, implementing a uniform technical policy, coordinating the complicated problems which arise at the "meeting points" of the branches and providing complete and timely funds for machines and construction materials.

The problem of efficient management of the agroprom is especially serious and vital, since it must not only develop an operational style for itself that will be suitable for today's requirements, but also aid in creating a business-like style for the rayon agroindustrial associations, which constitute a decisive element for administering the APK. The RAPO's are directly associated with the kolkhozes and sovkhoses and with production. Thus it is proper to impose high requirements upon them, particularly in view of the fact that many associations still lack the industry and boldness required for solving problems. Instead of carrying out a thorough and objective analysis of the status of affairs on the farms, concentrating attention on the backward farms or disseminating leading experience in the various areas, just as in the past a great number of diverse types of conferences are being held.

As a rule, all of the leaders and chief specialists, including those from farms where work is proceeding in a fine manner, are summoned to attend these conferences. The latter benefit very little from these conferences. Instead, they are diverted from carrying out their principal work. Nor do the backward farms gain very much from such discussions. They require specific assistance as a rule.

In reviewing any problem, the chief consideration is the final result. When a situation does not change, it generally means that the meetings and conferences were not conducted in a business-like atmosphere and that they evidenced only a mere semblance of work. Unfortunately, this happens frequently.

A search for new forms for collaboration and mutual assistance among the farms, relationships with supporting organizations, the maneuvering of labor and material resources and more complete utilization of internal reserves -- this then are the tasks of the agroprom and the rayon associations.

A serious reorganization is presently underway throughout the republic's entire agroindustrial complex. It began at the rayon level, was continued at the republic level and life now confronts the agroprom with the need for introducing the new forms of management at the kolkhoz and sovkhos level -- collective contracts in the brigades and on the farms. The initial results of this experience are already at hand. For example, a mechanized detachment for the procurement of feed headed by communist Khayno Saar is operating successfully at the Kommunist Sovkhos in Valgaskiy Rayon. Last year the detachment numbered seven workers. This cost accounting collective was assigned on a contractual basis 312 hectares of spring grain crops and 255 hectares of grasses and also tractors, motor vehicles and other items of equipment. A plan was defined for the production of feed in feed units. The production expenditures and also the cost of a feed unit were established for the entire volume of work using the computational method.

The brigade fulfilled its feed procurement plan by 109.6 percent, with a production cost per feed unit that was 20 percent less than the average for a

sovkhoz. During the season the brigade lowered its planned expenditures by 40 percent, for which it was paid approximately 6,000 rubles in bonuses.

Instead of pursuing output norms and hectares, the brigade directed all of its efforts in behalf of the harvest. The members of the brigade regulated the duration of the working day themselves and they resolved all problems concerned with their personal affairs. Throughout all of last year, there was not one violation of labor discipline. In short, the new method repaid with interest the hopes placed in it. The brigade acquired confidence in its abilities. This year it will increase numerically and be tasked with carrying out a great volume of work and expanding its group of cultivated crops.

The experience of cost accounting contractual agreements at so-called "family farms" has proven its worth. At the Luun'ya Sovkhoz in Tartuskiy Rayon, the Yurgenson family concluded an agreement for the fattening of 320 head of large-horned cattle. Instead of the planned 625 grams, the daily weight increases amounted to 666 grams. Based upon the annual results, the family received 1,718 rubles in bonuses. This was honestly earned money. Both the workers and the farm profited. This year it is expected that the contract at the Luun'ya Sovkhoz will be extended to include providing services for the milking herd.

It would seem that everything is clear and that the results are readily at hand. Why is it then that we are still not employing collective contracts on an extensive scale? All of the prerequisites for doing so are available -- skilled personnel and the necessary equipment. Here the chief explanation would seem to be failure to evaluate properly the importance of the new and progressive form of cost accounting and also that the farms have become habituated to using the form of labor organization that has been employed over a number of years. Recently, on many farms throughout the republic, excessive use has been made of material incentives for the successful completion of sowing operations, inter-row tilling, harvest work, transporting of fertilizer and other one-time operations. Thus emphasis is placed upon achieving round figures and quite often this is not associated with the harvest.

Thus there are many problems and complications here. And the party organizations of the farms, the rayon party committees and the local soviets, jointly with the agroprom and professional trade union and komsomol organs, must carry out a great amount of laborious, explanatory and organizational work in order to overcome the existing psychological barriers and provide a broad path for the use of collective contracts in agricultural production.

This past wintering period in the republic was a good one. The overall increase in milk yields compared to the last indoor maintenance period surpassed 300 kilograms per cow and the daily weight increases for the fattening of hogs and large-horned cattle were higher than the figures for last year. This was largely the result of a reliable supply of feed and skilful organization of labor on the farms.

"In carrying out the tasks set forth in the decisions handed down during the May Plenum and the food program, a great role will be played by the new organs of administration -- agroindustrial associations" stated the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yu.V. Andropov during a recent conference in the

CPSU Central Committee, "The party committees must display concern for ensuring that the new organs in the rural areas gain strength as rapidly as possible. Importance is attached to assisting them from the very beginning in selecting the proper direction for their activities and in solving in a business-like manner the principal problems concerned with agricultural development and the agroindustrial complex on the whole." The creation of a republic agro-industrial association is a practical measure which, beyond any doubt, will have a positive effect in the near future in sharply raising the productive forces of agriculture in the republic.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC POTENTIAL IN SUPPORT OF FOOD PROGRAM

Moscow PLANOVVOYE KHOZYAYSTVO in Russian No 5, May 83 pp 3-13

[Article by P. Paskar', first deputy chairman, USSR Gosplan:
"Step Up the Effort to Implement the Nation's Food Program"]

[Text] The party's policy of giving top priority to social problems and to improving the people's well-being was vividly reflected in the decisions of the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee which approved the USSR Food Program up to the year 1990 and ratified a number of important decrees of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers.

The materials of the May plenum of the CPSU constitute a detailed, scientifically substantiated program for the further development of agriculture and allied branches in the 1980's. They create reliable prerequisites for the formation of the food fund that will make it possible to provide a higher level of food consumption and to indemnify the nation against changing conditions on the world market and against political pressure exerted by capitalist countries.

Our country has highly developed productive forces, a mighty industry and a highly mechanized agriculture. The party poses the task of mobilizing the country's entire economic and scientific-technical potential for the fulfillment of the Food Program.

The ever growing volume of material and financial resources allocated for the program are distributed in such a way as to significantly improve interbranch proportions in the agro-industrial complex. Capital-producing branches as well as the production and social infrastructure will develop at a more rapid rate. This will make it possible to increase food production, to increase the effectiveness of agricultural production and of industrial branches associated with agriculture. Kolkhozes, sovkhoses, plants and factories in the agro-industrial complex and in all branches of the national economy have stepped up the effort to implement the nation's Food Program.

Given the difficult weather conditions in 1982, the volume of gross agricultural output increased by approximately four percent compared with 1981. There have been increases in the production of grain,

sunflowers, flax fiber, potatoes, fruit, vegetables, milk and eggs. Fodder procurement has also increased. Kolkhozes and sovkhoses today have a larger number of cattle and hogs. The production of agricultural products on subsidiary farms of industrial enterprises and on personal household plots has been expanded. This made it possible to increase the production and purchase of livestock products in the first months of the current year. In January and February, for example, the volume of milk and dairy product purchases, compared with [the same] two months of last year increased by 907 thousand tons or by 15 percent; livestock and poultry -- by 118 thousand tons or by 5 percent; and eggs -- by 503 million eggs or by 7 percent.

At the same time, interruptions in the supply of certain foodstuffs to the population have not been eliminated. "Workers in the agro-industrial complex," Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, noted at the November (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, "must from day to day increase their efforts and work in such a way that the vast allocations directed toward the resolution of this problem would yield a return already today and an even larger return tomorrow."*

The resolution of important, large-scale problems associated with increasing food production presupposes the further strengthening of agriculture's material-technical base and all other branches of the agro-industrial complex and the improved use of the production potential created in the countryside.

The total mechanization of agriculture and animal husbandry and the retooling of the food branches of industry on a new technical base have been posed as top-priority tasks that must essentially be completed before the year 1990. To this end, during the decade agriculture will receive 3740-3780 thousand tractors, 3000-3060 thousand trucks, 3200-3300 thousand tractor trailers, a large number of milk transporters and semi-trailers for livestock, refrigerated trucks, at least 200 thousand excavators, 215 thousand bulldozers, 93 thousand scrapers, 1170 thousand grain harvesting combines and other agricultural machines for a sum of 67-70 billion rubles. Between 15 and 17 billion rubles' worth of production equipment will be allocated for the food branches of industry, state trade and consumer cooperatives. Measures have been outlined for satisfying the needs of the food branches of industry, trade and agriculture for packaging and packaging materials.

In order to effect the technical retooling of agriculture between 1983 and 1990, tractor and agricultural machine building will master the production of at least 600 new, high-efficiency machines while livestock and fodder production machine building will master at least 300 new machines.

*"Materialy Plenuma Tsentral'nogo Komiteta KPSS. 22 noyabrya 1982 goda" [Materials of the Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. 22 November 1982], Moscow, Politizdat, 1982, pp. 12-13.

The development of production capacities will be accelerated and the necessary number of machines will be produced to permit the introduction of: soil-protecting technologies; industrial technologies for the cultivation of sugar beets, corn, potatoes, vegetables and other agricultural crops; integrated sets of machinery and highly efficient soil fertilization machines, etc.

Machines and equipment comprising integrated complexes for procuring, preparing and dispensing feed are to be produced for animal husbandry and fodder production and for the mechanization of production processes on farms.

Flowlines and sets of equipment will for the most part be manufactured for the food branches of industry thereby making it possible to increase labor productivity 1.5-2 fold, to increase the depth of processing of agricultural products, to reduce losses of these products, to improve the quality and expand the mix of foodstuffs.

At a time when a large number of sophisticated machines are being delivered to the countryside, their highly efficient use becomes a matter of paramount importance. The broad diffusion of progressive technologies and progressive methods of carrying out mechanized operations coupled with the better organization of the maintenance and repair of tractors, trucks, combines and other agricultural machines increase their shift output and daily output and make it possible to perform various operations within optimal agrotechnical periods of time. Unfortunately there are still numerous instances of uneconomical attitudes toward equipment, of the unsatisfactory operation and storage of this equipment. On many kolkhozes and sovkhoses, the daily output, e. g., of tractors integrated with other types of equipment is not only not rising but is even declining.

Materials of the May Plenum of the party's Central Committee and subsequent decrees of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers focused the attention of both agricultural organs and enterprises belonging to Goskomsel'khoztekhnika [State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture] on the need to make more effective use of tractors, combines, vehicles, all machines and mechanisms, and power generating capacities in kolkhoz-sovkhoz production.

The further development of the chemicalization of agriculture will be of major significance in the implementation of the Food Program. In 1985, kolkhozes and sovkhoses will receive 26.5 million tons of mineral fertilizers and will receive 30-32 million tons in 1990 (calculated in terms of 100 percent content of nutrient matter). They will receive 63 million and 80 million tons of materials, respectively, for liming acid soils. The production of highly effective plant protection agents to satisfy the requirements of agriculture for herbicides will grow at a more rapid rate. Measures are envisaged for the creation of the necessary material and technical base for chemicalization.

The target of improving the quality of fertilizers has been set. It is planned to increase the production of highly concentrated and complex fertilizers to at least 90 percent of total fertilizer output by the year 1990. Starting in 1988, fertilizers will be produced only in

the form of granules or large crystals (with the exception of phosphorite meal) that are resistant to caking in the storage process, that are suitable for shipment in bulk and for mixing with dry fertilizers.

In the current year, 20.7 million tons of fertilizer (calculated in terms of active matter) are slated for delivery to the countryside. This is 1.4 million tons than in 1982. This will be a substantial additional potential for increasing yield and for increasing crop production. At the same time, the more effective use of each ton of inorganic and organic fertilizer continues to be the main reserve.

Analysis of the use of fertilizers in republics and individual economic regions shows that the return on mineral fertilizer was higher in the case of grain crops. For the nation as a whole, 4.9 kilograms of grain were produced for every kilogram of fertilizer (the norm is 4.4 kilograms). However, owing to serious shortcomings in the use of mineral fertilizers, the return on them is lower than the norm when they are applied to potatoes, sugar beets, cotton and vegetable crops. This situation in the case of mineral fertilizers is the result of the slow rate of introduction of the scientifically substantiated system of agriculture, violations of agrotechnics, the nonobservance of optimal proportions of fertilizers in mixtures, and losses of mineral fertilizers in the shipping, storing and use. Each farm must carefully examine the question of correctly using allocated fertilizers and of making broad use of the most rational methods for applying them according to optimal norms.

The program calls for the further development of land reclamation. The area of irrigated land will be raised to 20.8 million hectares in 1985 and to 23-25 million hectares in 1990; the area of drained land will be increased to 15.5 and 18-19 million hectares, respectively.

In our country today, over 35 million hectares of land are reclaimed. Reclaimed land occupies approximately 10 percent of the total area of cultivated land and of perennial plantings and in 1976-1980 accounted for 30 percent of crop production output. Many farms realize 3-4 times more output from reclaimed land than from boghara [unirrigated land]. Nonetheless capital investments in reclamation do not always produce the return they should. Harvests of agricultural crops grown on irrigated land on many farms are low. Thus throughout the nation in 1981, the grain crop harvest was less than 15 centners per hectare and the harvest of potatoes and vegetables was less than 50 centners on 26 percent, 52 percent and 24 percent of the farms respectively engaged in the cultivation of these crops on irrigated land.

One of the major reasons for the shortfall in the harvest is the deterioration of the state of irrigated land. While in 1975, 4.8 million hectares of irrigated land throughout the nation were in need of improvement, in 1981 this number was 5.5 million hectares.

The underassessment of the significance of work on the reconstruction of systems and the improvement of soil through reclamation reduces the effectiveness of capital investment in water projects which is expressed not only in the low harvest of agricultural crops and the shortfall in gross harvests but also in the large-scale withdrawal of reclaimed land from economic circulation. Some kolkhozes and sovkhoses have not developed agrotechnics and have not trained cadres for work on reclaimed land. It is essential to give top priority to the resolution of all questions associated with raising the effectiveness of reclaimed land -- the real reserve for bringing about a rapid increase in output.

Correct crop rotation is one of the key conditions to intelligent farming, to more stable crop yield, to the regular growth of production of grain, fodder and other crops.

According to data of the USSR Central Statistical Administration on 1 November 1982, 202.4 million hectares of land or 95 percent of total cultivated land area were part of the crop rotation program; 165.7 million hectares or 81 percent of them were reclaimed land. Last year, 2.4 million hectares were added to cultivated land participating in the crop rotation program. Crop rotation programs have been instituted in the Ukraine, in Belorussia, in Kazakhstan and Lithuania.

However this work is proceeding at a slow pace in a number of republics. Thus only 35 percent of the cultivated land participates in crop rotation in the Azerbaijan SSR; 70 percent in the Turkmen SSR; and 72 percent in the Uzbek SSR.

Drawing upon the increased economic potential, the party poses the task of supplying the population with all kinds of food in the shortest possible time and of substantially improving the structure of diet by increasing consumption of the most nutritious foods.

A decisive condition to the attainment of this objective is the acceleration of the growth rate of agricultural production and especially of stable grain production. The program calls for the production of 238-243 million tons of grain under the 11th Five-Year Plan and for the production of 250-255 million tons of grain under the 12th Five-Year Plan. Special attention is devoted to increasing the gross harvest of corn, millet, buckwheat, rice, legumes, etc. Average yearly production of potatoes under the 11th Five-Year Plan will be 87-89 million tons compared with 90-92 million tons under the 12th Five-Year Plan; the production of vegetables and melons will be increased to 33-34 million and 37-39 million tons, respectively; the production of fruit, berries and grapes will be expanded.

Measures are indicated for sharply reducing losses of products in all stages of their movement from the field to the consumer, for the increased specialization and concentration of production of vegetables on reclaimed land, and for the creation of zones specializing in the production of potatoes and vegetables for market.

The further enhancement of soil fertility and the increased yield of farm crops are the basic avenue to increasing the volume of agricultural output. For example, it is planned to increase the yield of grain crops by 6-7 centners per hectare and to raise it to 21-22 centners per hectare by the end of the 12th Five-Year Plan. This is the main reserve for increasing gross grain harvests since the possibility for expanding sown area is extremely limited at the present time. The resolution of these difficult problems will depend primarily on improved selection and seed breeding, on the effective use of all types of fertilizers, and on the introduction of scientifically substantiated agricultural systems that are geared to the natural and economic conditions of each zone, oblast, rayon or farm.

The Food Program contains broad measures designed to promote the development of animal husbandry. Average annual production of meat (slaughter weight) under the 11th Five-Year Plan must be raised to 17-17.5 million tons and under the 12th Five-Year Plan -- to 20-20.5 million tons; milk -- to 97-99 million and 104-106 million tons; and eggs -- to 72 billion and 78-79 billion eggs. The increase in the production of livestock products is slated to be due primarily to the increased productivity of livestock and poultry; to the sale of heavier calves and heifers (weighing at least 400-500 kilograms); increasing the milk yield per cow by 500-600 kilograms on kolkhozes and sovkhoses by the year 1990; to the curtailment of the fattening-up period for livestock; and to the conversion of the branch to an industrial footing. Top priority is assigned to the improvement of breeding working and to the development of highly productive strains of animals.

Much attention is devoted to the strengthening of the fodder base of animal husbandry. Fodder production in 1985 will amount to 500 million tons and in 1990 will comprise 540-550 million tons of feed units.

More legumes are being planted and protein-vitamin additives, feed yeasts, lysine, fish meal, and meat-bone meal are being produced in greater quantity in order to improve the quality of feeds that are balanced in protein and other nutrients. In order to make more rational use of grain forage, it is planned to increase the production of mixed feed at state and interfarm enterprises and directly on kolkhozes and sovkhoses.

Fodder production is assigned a specialized character and it is planned to introduce progressive fodder procurement and storage technologies at an accelerated pace.

The Food Program emphasizes that the most important task of Soviet and agricultural organs and heads of farms and enterprises, and of trade union organizations is to create conditions so that every family living in the countryside would have a private plot and would keep livestock and poultry. Of late, a number of measures have been taken to see to it that the state, local Soviets, kolkhozes and sovkhoses assist the population in the development of personal household

plots. This had a positive impact on the growth of agricultural production and on increasing the number of livestock. The personal household plots of blue collar workers, kolkhoz workers and white collar workers presently account for 27 percent of gross agricultural output.

Subsidiary farms of industrial enterprises and organizations make a substantial contribution to the augmentation of food resources. More than 9000 such farms have been established from the ground up in the last 3 years. They have increased sown area, the number of livestock and agricultural output. In order to develop these farms, it is planned to allocate to them the necessary land, equipment, mineral fertilizers and other material-technical resources; to assist them in the construction of hothouses, livestock farms and fruit-vegetable storage facilities.

Consumer cooperatives now play a larger part and bear greater responsibility for organizing purchases of surplus agricultural products from social farms and from the population. The network of stationary and temporary procurement points and processing shops is being expanded. Measures are indicated for securing the rational siting of stores, kolkhoz markets, and dining and other trade enterprises, and for improving their work routine.

An important role in meeting the targets of the Food Program is assigned to science and to the broad application of scientific advances in production. Soviet scholars have carried out research in many important directions and have achieved results that will make it possible to raise the level of agricultural production and to attain high economic results.

Of late, the network of research institutions has grown and their material base has been strengthened. The country's agricultural science has a mighty potential. More than 800 scientific research institutions belong to the USSR Ministry of Agriculture. This number includes 250 scientific research institutes and more than 140 agricultural experimental stations. Agricultural research is also conducted by institutions of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the academies of sciences of union republics, ministries and departments.

The Food Program envisages measures for the further development of scientific research, for improving the organization of the incorporation of scientific advances into production in branches belonging to the agro-industrial complex.

Based on the generalization of practical experience, it will be necessary to make scientifically substantiated recommendations on the further improvement of specialization, concentration and interfarm cooperation in production, and on the introduction of progressive forms of labor organization and work incentives based on the end result. We must institute measures to effect the elaboration and introduction of energy-saving soil-protection and industrial technologies to be used in the cultivation of agricultural crops for various soil and climatic conditions; we must intensify work on the selection of new strains and hybrids of agricultural crops corresponding to the demands of industrial

technologies that are resistant to adverse environmental factors and that produce a high yield. The network of science-production associations will develop on the basis of branch and zonal research and design organizations.

As practice has shown, the creation of science-production associations is the reliable avenue to the realization of scientific advances in agriculture. For example, "Selektsiya" -- a Moldavian science-production association -- develops seeds for 48 strains of 20 different field crops. Work under the conditions of the association has made it possible to reduce the time required to reproduce zoned strains and hybrids from 7 to 2-3 years, which has promoted increases in the grain harvest and in the sale of grain to the state.

"Sakharnaya svekla" -- the All-Union Science-Production Association of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture -- incorporates 13 institutions and enterprises that are situated in various beet-growing zones throughout the nation. Ninety percent of all area planted under sugar beets in the nation is seeded with strains developed by the association. The industrial technology developed by scientists for cultivating this crop made it possible to cut actual costs per hectare of planted area of this crop in half.

The role of science-production associations is growing more and more with each passing year. They become centers for coordinating the incorporation of scientific and technical advances into agricultural production. Thus the Uzbek Science-Production Association for Horticulture, Viticulture and Winemaking (Tashkent) incorporates 28 different institutions and enterprises and specializes in growing planting stock for the republic. Hundreds of hectares have already been planted with high-yield strains of fruit crops and grapes developed by the association.

As noted at the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the processing, storage and shipment of the product to the consumer are becoming a more and more frequent bottleneck. Since the nation has even now a more highly developed food industry compared with the preceding period, it could produce considerably more margarine, pasta, confectionery products, baby food, concentrates, etc. However, owing to the disparity between the capacities of processing enterprises and raw materials, there are substantial losses of agricultural products in some areas.

The reduction of losses and the deeper processing of products are a most important reserve for increasing the nation's food resources. Thus in the dairy industry, approximately 48 percent of the skim milk and buttermilk and 45 percent of the whey are processed into food products and whole milk substitutes. The rest of the separated milk is returned to kolkhozes, sovkhoses and interfarm enterprises where it is fed to young livestock. An increase in the processing of separated milk and buttermilk for food and as a whole milk substitute would be equivalent to the additional production of several million tons of milk.

In the sugar industry, the beet is presently processed for a period over 120 days. At the end of that period, the yield of sugar from the roots drops sharply. What is more, many beets are also ruined as a result of imperfect storage. Experts believe that if sugar refineries processed all sugar beets grown on kolkhozes and sovkhoses within the optimal time, the state could realize more than 350,000 tons of additional sugar every year.

Economists estimate that the funds annually lost by the national economy as a result of spoilage in the in the process of storing one percent of the potatoes, fruit, vegetables and grapes that are grown would be sufficient to construct large, actively ventilated potato and vegetable storage facilities (with approximately four million tons of total storage capacity).

In order to eliminate losses, to secure the maximum integrity of the grown products and to increase the food supply as a result, the Program calls for large-scale measures to be implemented in years to come. This means above all the development of storage and processing capacities.

In food industry branches, capital investments are to be channeled into the development of meat, dairy, fruit and vegetable products, vegetable oil, margarine, sugar, confectionery goods, flour and groats.

We must also secure the rational siting of the material and technical base for the procurement, storage and processing of agricultural products throughout the nation. In addition to the construction of large processing and storage enterprises, where economically expedient small enterprises will be built in the vicinity of kolkhozes and sovkhoses and also directly on these farms. They will for the most part use prefabricated buildings (modules) made from lightweight metal components. Small grain-receiving enterprises and mixed feed shops will be built in the interior of Siberia, Kazakhstan, the Volga Region and other parts of the country. The development and implementation of plans for siting these facilities and the application of progressive storage modes make it possible to bring about substantial reductions in losses of products and to reduce shipping during the period of mass procurement.

The reception of perishable farm products directly on kolkhozes and sovkhoses and their shipment by the specialized transport of procurement organizations must be widely developed in the current decade. At the present time, at the place of production one-fourth of the farms supply livestock and one-fifth of the farms supply milk. The number of farms converted to the new procedure for supplying and shipping products grows each year with the creation of the necessary material-technical base.

However, the introduction of such a progressive procedure for accepting and shipping agricultural products is not introduced on an organized basis everywhere. Thus while between 50 and 70 percent of the livestock procured is shipped from kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the Lithuanian SSR, Latvian SSR and Belorussian SSR by the meat industry, this work is in the earliest stage in the Tajik SSR and the Uzbek SSR.

The May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee posed the task of completing the transition to the reception of livestock, poultry, milk, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, berries and grapes directly on kolkhozes and sovkhozes and of hauling them from the farms using the procurement agency's transport. In this regard, the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, USSR Ministry of the Food Industry, USSR Ministry of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry and Tsentsosoyuz will have to carry out large-scale organizational work in this direction.

Under the 11th Five-Year Plan, branches of the agro-industrial complex must utilize capital investments in the amount of 233 billion rubles including 189.6 billion rubles in agriculture. Under the 12th Five-Year Plan, they will be 33-35 percent; the amount earmarked for agriculture will be 27-28 percent of the overall volume of investments in the national economy.

The center of gravity now shifts to the effectiveness of capital investments, to the growth of agricultural productivity, to the intensification and improvement of its ties with all branches of the agro-industrial complex; to the optimal use of land, production capacities; labor, material and financial resources; and all available reserves and possibilities for increasing food production. At the same time, there is a need for a persistent effort to increase labor productivity, to encourage economy and thrift, to reduce the net cost of production, and to eliminate mismanagement and wastefulness.

The Food Program poses the problem of increasing labor productivity on kolkhozes and sovkhozes approximately 1.5 fold; of increasing agricultural output per hectare of land by at least one-third; of significantly reducing the material inputs per unit of agricultural output; of reducing losses of all types through the improved balance of protein and the rational use of fodder; of reducing the expenditure of fodder by at least 5-7 percent per unit of livestock products by 1990 compared with 1980; of increasing the return on mineral fertilizers and other means of chemicalization by approximately 12-15 percent; of realizing at least a five percent saving in fuels and lubricants in the performance of mechanized and transport work; of increasing the daily productivity of tractors, harvesters and means of transport by approximately 20 percent by 1990. In branches of the food industry, measures to secure the comprehensive processing of agricultural raw materials and to increase output per unit of raw material will be secured on the basis of the introduction of highly efficient production equipment.

The policy of making better use of everything agriculture now has and will have has found practical reflection in 11th Five-Year Plan quotas. While capital investments are slated to increase by 11 percent, the average annual volume of agricultural output is to be increased by 13 percent.

The May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee outlined measures to improve management, planning and the economic mechanism. As we know, the appropriate administrative organs have been created at the central and local level for the purpose of coordinating the activity of various branches and subdivisions of the agro-industrial complex and for making management more effective. In rayons, oblasts, krays and autonomous republics agro-industrial associations are endowed with the necessary rights needed to resolve production, economic and social problems with due regard to the interests of kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

At the same time that new administrative organs were created, more than 3000 trusts and other administrative subdivisions that did not prove justified were abolished. Approximately 5000 sovkhozes that were previously subordinate to trusts and associations were transferred to the direct control of rayon agriculture administrations.

Commissions on problems of the agro-industrial complex were created under the auspices of presidiums of republic councils of ministers in the union republics and in the center such a commission was established under the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers. These commissions are assigned the function of coordinating the activity of ministries and departments belonging to the agro-industrial complex and of monitoring their fulfillment of party and government decisions, state plans and targets.

The improvement of planning is directed toward improving the management of the agro-industrial complex. Of late, notwithstanding the accelerated development of the material-technical base in agriculture and other branches of the agro-industrial complex and despite the significant expansion of interbranch relations, planning methods have remained virtually unchanged. Capital investments and material resources allocated for the development of branches of the agro-industrial complex have not been sufficiently coordinated to the end result. This led to the formation of bottlenecks in procurement, storage and processing; to the irrational location of such enterprises; and to higher shipping costs.

Another shortcoming of planning practice was that the farm product purchase targets established for farms were not always coordinated with the material-technical supply plans of the necessary construction projects.

In accordance with the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers "On Measures for Improving the Economic Mechanism and for Strengthening the Economies of Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes" ratified by the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Gosplan with the participation of interested ministries and departments is drafting proposals on the procedure for planning the agro-industrial complex at all administrative levels, aimed at promoting the optimal combination of territorial, branch and program-goal methods of planning,

and at the rectification of the supply of material and technical resources to kolkhozes, sovkhoses and other enterprises in the agro-industrial complex. It is also planned to create conditions for the more proportional and balanced development of all branches of the agro-industrial complex, to orient their work toward end results rather than toward intermediate indicators.

It is also planned to implement measures to promote the introduction of the normative method of planning capital investments and expenditures of basic material resources in agriculture with due regard to the volume of agricultural output, to create the necessary conditions for the more active participation of new administrative organs (rayon, oblast, kray and republic (ASSR) agro-industrial associations) in the resolution of these problems. Every condition must be created so that planning in practice would be carried out from below directly on the farms.

It is impossible to make agriculture more effective without creating stable economic conditions for expanded reproduction on kolkhozes and sovkhoses, without a clearly articulated mechanism of economic relations between agriculture and enterprises and organizations of other branches of the national economy. It is obvious that kolkhozes and sovkhoses should be given priority in this area.

A number of specific measures have already been taken to implement these objectives of the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. As of 1 January 1983, purchase prices were raised and price markups were instituted for basic types of agricultural products. Favorable conditions are thereby created for the genuine introduction of cost accounting on kolkhozes and sovkhoses. Taking additional income into account, farm earnings are on the average growing by 17 percent. Kolkhozes and sovkhoses operating under objectively marginal conditions realize a considerable percentage of the funds.

In order to stabilize these conditions, we study the possibility of organizing on a national scale constant monitoring of changes in the correlation between purchase prices on agricultural products and prices on industrial products sold to agriculture. Attention is also merited by proposals to secure equivalent exchange between these branches of the national economy, to elaborate measures for raising the responsibility of machine builders, chemical workers, and enterprises in other branches for the quality of machines, fertilizers and miscellaneous products delivered to the countryside.

Another important direction in the effort to improve the economic mechanism in the country's agro-industrial complex is the restructuring of relations of kolkhozes and sovkhoses with enterprises and organizations in the service sphere, whose activity of late has evoked just censure on the part of farm managers and specialists. Despite formal equality in interrelations of agricultural enterprises with associations belonging to Goskomsel'khoztekhnika, Sel'khozkhimiya, water management and procurement organizations, the kolkhoz or sovkhos is frequently in a disadvantageous position.

Economists believe that in order to establish existing shortcomings, it would be expedient to establish a procedure whereby the growth of agricultural output, the unconditional fulfillment of all commitments vis-a-vis kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and the reduction of the cost of work performed for them would be basic indicators in the evaluation of performance and in forming the incentive funds of enterprises and organizations serving agriculture. With the growth of production of grain, meat and milk and increases in their purchase, there will also be growth of material incentive funds, and conditions will be created that permit the payment of high wages and bonuses to personnel of enterprises that serve kolkhoz and sovkhoz production.

Or let us take such a very important economic indicator as profit. It is a matter of no little importance to raise its role in establishing a mutually advantageous partnership within the framework of the agro-industrial complex.

Specialists believe that since Sel'khoztekhnika, Sel'khozkhimiya, and water management organizations are directly related to the technology of agricultural production, their profit must also be formed in direct dependence on the fulfillment of their production plans. It is assumed that half of the profit obtained by service enterprises and organizations in excess of enterprises and organizations in excess of the established plan will be returned by them to kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Questions are also examined regarding the substantial raising of the responsibility of enterprises and organizations serving agriculture so that the fulfillment of the procurement plan by procurement enterprises and organizations would be taken into account in evaluating their performance.

The resolutions of the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee showed particular concern for workers in branches of the agro-industrial complex. The changes that are made in their material incentive system are designed to establish a closer interdependence between the performance and earnings of each worker.

Much work remains to be done to secure the broad dissemination of brigades and links operating on the basis of a collective contract. As practice shows, it is effective in the production of virtually any kind of agricultural product. Compared with the piece-rate system, the contract method in all cases promotes higher end results. Under present conditions, this is the most acceptable means of strengthening the relationship between the material rewards of kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers and the results of their work. It is also an understandable and effective form of cost accounting. The introduction of a collective contract requires more thoughtful planning and economic analysis on the part of leading cadres of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and agricultural organs; a higher general level of management and organization of production; the strict observance of technological discipline; and the strengthening and significant improvement of the work of economic services.

Important measures have been taken to retain cadres in the countryside. For example, animal husbandry personnel receive higher pay for continuous service on a given farm. They also enjoy additional paid leave. The salaries of managerial personnel, specialists and employees of sovkhozes are being raised by 30 percent on the average.

Wage payments in kind are a good stimulus for highly productive labor and for the attainment of high final results. In recent years, payments in kind were underestimated and the volume of payment in kind was significantly reduced. This had a negative impact on the conditions of working personal household plots and narrowed the potential of the kolkhoz market. Therefore it is proposed that the cash wages of kolkhoz and white collar workers be significantly supplemented to a greater degree by payments in kind, that they be paid in grain, potatoes, fruit, vegetables, and fodder; that payments in kind be made not only to kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers and personnel of enterprises and organizations that are called upon to perform seasonal work in agriculture.

The November (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee emphasized that the implementation of the Food Program will take longer than a single year but that its implementation must not be protracted. Each kolkhoz, sovkhoz and enterprise in all branches of the agro-industrial complex must carry out concrete measures to increase food production and to improve product quality for smaller inputs of labor and resources.

Planning and supply agencies must see to it that all targets for delivering material-technical resources to the countryside are met. In the process of implementing plans, we must find ways of allocating additional resources.

The task of managers and specialists of kolkhozes and sovkhozes and of all workers in the countryside is to make highly effective use of allocated resources, to pay them with an additional quantity of products and raw materials, and to secure high production and economic results everywhere. In the near future, USSR Gosplan and republic, kray, oblast and local planning agencies will begin drafting state plans of economic and social development in 1984, that must fully reflect all targets indicated in the USSR Food Program.

The basic task of branches in the agro-industrial complex is to secure the level and structure of the Soviet people's consumption of foodstuffs in line with the recommendations of medical science, to satisfy industry's need for agricultural raw material, to eliminate the nation's dependence on imports of basic agricultural products, to build up the necessary reserves and export resources of food, and to eliminate socioeconomic distinctions between town and country.

The Soviet people, who wholeheartedly support the Communist Party's domestic and foreign policy, have actively joined in the effort to implement the decisions of the May and November (1982) Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee. They are filled with the striving to secure the successful fulfillment of the targets of the Food Program -- a program designed to improve the people's well-being -- through their unselfish labor.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

IMPROVEMENTS CALLED FOR IN OPERATION OF BELORUSSIAN APK SYSTEM

Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 6 Apr 83 pp 1-2

[Article by Yu.M. Khusainov, 1st deputy chairman of the BSSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Committee on Agroindustrial Complex Problems of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the BSSR: "Improving the Work of the Agroindustrial Complex"]

[Text] 1. The decisions handed down during the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR food program which it approved are developing, in conformity with the agroindustrial complex developed during the 26th party congress, a program aimed at increasing the role played by intensive factors in the development of the economy. An important and distinctive feature of this program is its comprehensive nature. In a speech delivered before the November (1982) Plenum of the CC CPSU and while discussing the development of the agroindustrial complex, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, emphasized that "here we have in mind a complex in which there are no tasks of a secondary nature."

The foundation for the development of the agroindustrial complex is further improvements in agriculture. The task has been assigned for the 1980's of achieving high rates for agricultural production through consistent intensification of such production, strengthening the logistical base in every possible way and accelerating the introduction of scientific achievements and leading experience. A great amount of attention is also being given to improving the economic conditions for the administrative activities of kolkhozes and sovkhoses.

The republic's agricultural workers must achieve more efficient use of land, production capabilities, labor, material and financial resources and all available opportunities for satisfying in the best possible manner the population's requirements for food products. During the current decade, we must increase the production of agricultural products per hectare of land area by no less than one third and labor productivity at the kolkhozes and sovkhoses -- by a minimum of one and a half times.

For the development of the agrarian sector, use is being made of an ever-increasing portion of the republic's economic potential, as a result of which large changes have taken place in the logistical base for agricultural production during the past few years. The following data testifies to the

scale and nature of these changes. Over the past three five-year plans, the fixed productive capital -- a chief and decisive element of the logistical base -- increased by a factor of more than four and reached 9.6 billion rubles. This signifies that more than 3 billion rubles in terms of quantity and considerably more in terms of quality were added to that same production potential for agriculture, which was accumulated during all years of Soviet rule.

The use of chemical processes and land reclamation operations were developed at an accelerated pace. Mineral fertilizer deliveries to agriculture during this period increased by a factor of 3.3. The areas of drained and irrigated land increased by a factor of 2.4. Approximately 4 billion rubles were invested in land reclamation. Land reclamation systems covering an area of 2.4 million hectares were built and modernized. Approximately 2.6 million hectares of cultivated and improved haying and pasture land were created. Irrigation systems were introduced into operations for the watering of vegetables and more than 246,000 hectares of haying and pasture land. Soil improvement work was carried out on 2.7 million hectares of land not requiring drainage.

Production construction work is being carried out in the rural areas on an increasingly greater scale. A considerable amount of renovation work has been carried out on livestock facilities and improvements have been realized with regard to equipping the farms with warehouses and storehouses, repair workshops and technical servicing points. A substantial increase has taken place in the level of mechanization in animal husbandry. For a majority of operations, it amounts at the present time to 80-90 percent.

An increase was achieved in the production of agricultural products based upon comprehensive development of the logistical base for agriculture in the republic. Thus, during the 10th Five-Year Plan and compared to the five-year plan which preceded the March (1965) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the gross production of field and farm products increased by twofold and compared to the Ninth Five-Year Plan -- by 15 percent. It is important to note that the entire increase in output was obtained by means of the intensive method, for all practical purposes from the former area of agricultural lands. With regard to the number of workers, it is constantly decreasing at the kolkhozes and sovkhozes not only from a relative but also from an absolute standpoint: growth in output production is being achieved only on the basis of raised labor productivity, which over the past three five-year plans increased by more than twofold in agriculture.

2. The solving of the food problem presupposes further development of the productive forces of agriculture and an intensification of the capabilities of the processing industry. But this is only one aspect of the work. Another and equally important one is that of improving production relationships. The methods for administration and planning, the methods for issuing incentives and the management mechanism must create conditions which promote highly productive labor. These are precisely the basic aims of the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Improvements in the Administration of Agriculture and Other Branches of the Agroindustrial Complex." It outlines comprehensive measures aimed at improving the administration of the agrarian sector of the economy.

For the very first time, the agroindustrial complex has been singled out as an independent object for planning and administration. In the process, all work concerned with improving planning is aimed at raising the administrative and operational independence of kolkhozes and sovkhozes as the chief elements of agriculture, overcoming departmental isolation and achieving an optimum combination of branch and territorial principles.

Appropriate organs of administration were formed in the republic late last year for the purpose of improving the work of the agroindustrial complex, raising production efficiency and achieving operational management and improved coordination and interrelationships among all elements in the production structure. Agroindustrial associations have been created in the rayons and oblasts.

The management of a RAPO [rayon agroindustrial association] is carried out by an association's council which, within the limits of its competence, is an organ of state administration. The planning and coordinating functions of a council extend to all of the enterprises and organizations of a rayon agroindustrial complex, regardless of their departmental affiliation. This must ensure unity of planning -- a decisive condition for efficient and harmonious work by all elements of a RAPO.

The average staff for a republic rayon agroindustrial association consists of 42 members, of which 23 are kolkhoz chairmen and sovkhoz directors, 16 are leaders of enterprises and organizations of a rayon agroindustrial complex and three are other officials. The council of an oblast agroindustrial association consists of 53 members, of which 28 are the leaders of enterprises and organizations of an oblast's agroindustrial complex, 20 are the chairmen of councils of rayon agroindustrial associations and five are other officials. Importance is attached to ensuring that the administration of new agricultural organs in the various areas is carried out by intelligent and experienced specialists. The overwhelming majority of them are displaying initiative, applying themselves energetically to their practical tasks and solving the tasks concerned with organizing agricultural production under the new conditions in a business-like manner. The work being performed by the Vileyskiy, Grodnenskiy, Minskiy, Lyakhovichskiy and other rayon agroindustrial associations is characterized by the use of a creative approach in developing the required administrative style. Initiative and a sense of high responsibility for assigned tasks have become a component part of their daily work.

Unfortunately, not all of the RAPO's have as yet defined their positions in the campaign to solve the tasks of the food program. We are still encountering incidents of departmental isolation, a lack of principles and a superficial attitude being displayed towards complicated problems concerned with increasing the production of agricultural products on each farm in a rayon. In some areas the officials have limited their work to distributing logistical resources and solving other problems of a secondary nature. This is basically wrong.

The role and value of rayon agroindustrial associations are extremely important. They must ensure proportional and balanced development for all subunits of an association in the interest of intensifying the production of food goods and

solving the tasks of the food program. At the present time, a great deal depends upon fulfillment of the social obligations for the current year. And they are tense. Compared to its average annual volume during the 10th Five-Year Plan, gross output must be increased by 12.1 percent and labor productivity -- by 22.6 percent. The plans call for 25-26 quintals of grain to be obtained per hectare, 180 quintals of potatoes, 270 quintals of sugar beets, 5 quintals of flax fibre and 165 quintals of vegetables. As a result of raising productivity and increasing the number of livestock, meat production in the public sector will be increased by 7 percent compared to last year and milk -- by 5 percent. Roughly 120 quintals of meat and 463 quintals of milk must be produced per 100 hectares of agricultural land. Sales to the state must be as follows: 1.9 million tons of grain, 1.96 million tons of potatoes, 1.27 million tons of sugar beets, 101,000 tons of flax fibre, 382,000 tons of vegetables, 1.61 million tons of livestock and poultry, 4.3 million tons of milk and 1.55 billion eggs.

It must not be forgotten that during the last 2 years of the five-year plan many farms and rayons were not provided with plans for the production and procurements of individual types of products. Each RAPO council, based upon a detailed analysis of the activities of such farms and the operational experience of leading kolkhozes and sovkhoses must define as rapidly as possible specific measures for ensuring that the shortfall in output will be made up during the three remaining years of the five-year plan.

The level of development of productive forces in the rural areas requires the use of another approach for organizing production and administration. The council of an agroindustrial association must avoid providing administrative and petty support for the kolkhozes and sovkhoses, raise their economic independence and initiative in every possible way and create the conditions required for their successful operation.

The kolkhozes and sovkhoses are not awaiting instructions as to when and what to sow, but rather they wish to receive business-like and specific assistance in organizing cost accounting procedures and collective contracts and introducing scientific achievements and leading experience into operations. Economic methods of administration must be employed in a consistent manner in all branches of the republic's agroindustrial complex. In the absence of such methods, it is impossible today to ensure successful operations by the kolkhozes and sovkhoses. The role played by such effective levers and stimuli for intensifying the production of field and farm products as production costs, prices, profits and credit must be raised in a persistent manner.

A committee on Agroindustrial Complex Problems of the Presidium of the BSSR Council of Ministers has been formed in the republic for the administration of agricultural production. Its structure includes ministers, department leaders and other officials, all of whom direct those ministries and organizations which are directly associated with the agroindustrial complex. The committee coordinates and controls the activities of all ministries and departments concerned with solving the problem of further improving agricultural production. In its practical work, the committee of the Presidium of the BSSR Council of Ministers resolves all inter-branch problems which arise and it devotes a great amount of attention to uncovering additional reserves for increasing the production of agricultural products and food goods.

A great amount of importance is being attached to the efficient use, within a branch of the agroindustrial complex, of fixed capital, production capabilities, material, financial and labor resources and capital investments. Measures are being defined for improving the housing, municipal and everyday services and social-cultural living conditions of the rural population. The committee examines in advance the draft annual and long-range plans prepared by BSSR Gosplan for development of the APK /agroindustrial complex/ on the whole and its branches, the balance plans and plans for distributing the products of agriculture and the food branches of industry, agricultural equipment and other resources and also the plans for special purpose all-round scientific-technical programs. Control has been established over the carrying out of the party and governmental decisions on improving the work of the agroindustrial complex, with regard to implementing the tasks embodied in the state plans for the economic and social development of the BSSR in the sphere of agriculture and the processing industry.

The new system of administration, which includes the agroindustrial associations in the rayons and oblasts and the formation of the committee of the Presidium of the BSSR Council of Ministers are opening up broad opportunities for more complete utilization of the economic reserves by each kolkhoz and sovkhoz.

3. Many farms in our republic are praised for the high yields they obtain in potatoes, vegetables, sugar beets and flax products. Moreover, they are confidently continuing to increase their production of milk, meat and other agricultural products and on this basis they are annually increasing their monetary income. At the same time, there is also a large number of economically weak farms.

The 12th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belorussia required the party, soviet and agricultural organs to undertake decisive measures aimed at radically improving the status of affairs in this group of farms, to achieve fulfillment of the plans for the production and sale of products during the current year and to ensure the required level of profitability.

In accordance with the results for last year, 42 percent of the farms operated on an unprofitable basis. In the process it should be noted that these farms produce approximately 30 percent of the gross agricultural output and in Vitebsk and Mogilev Oblasts -- approximately 50 percent. Thirty eight percent of the labor resources and production expenditures are concentrated here.

The fact that there is a considerable number of low profitability kolkhozes and sovkhozes must not be overlooked. Together with the unprofitable farms, they constitute 69 percent of all farms in the republic and they produce 60 percent of the milk, 67 percent of the beef, 57 percent of the pork, 42 percent of the sugar beets and 37 percent of the vegetables. Hence these farms represent a real reserve for raising the production of agricultural products in the future.

The decisions handed down during the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee created favorable conditions for improving the economies of low

profitability and unprofitable farms. Within the republic, 118 million rubles worth of indebtedness incurred by these farms, in accordance with earlier deferred loans and subject to be repaid during the 1982-1985 period, was written off. In addition, bank loan indebtedness in the overall amount of 116 million rubles was deferred for 10 years, with repayment commencing in 1991.

Commencing on 1 January of this year, the procurement prices for agricultural products were raised. In the case of low profitability and unprofitable kolkhozes and sovkhozes, additional charges were added on to these prices, the total amount of which was 555 million rubles for the republic. Approximately 110 million rubles will be allocated annually from the state budget for those kolkhozes which lack sufficient fixed capital and which do not have resources available for carrying out expanded reproduction or for the construction of housing, children's pre-school institutes, clubs and other installations of a cultural-domestic nature and also intra-farm roads.

The task of the soviet and agricultural organs and the kolkhoz and sovkhoz leaders and specialists consists of making maximum use of the tremendous assistance offered by the state and also of their own resources, in the interest of improving the economic activities of the low profitability and unprofitable kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

In this work a large role will be played by the councils of the rayon and oblast agroindustrial associations. Jointly with the farm leaders and specialists, under the direction of the party committees and based upon a thorough analysis, they must develop and approve for each low profitability and unprofitable kolkhoz and sovkhoz plans for the carrying out of organizational-technical measures during the 1983-1985 period aimed at lowering the production costs for products and raising the efficiency of agricultural production.

Special attention must be given in these plans to measures aimed at raising the level of management for farming and animal husbandry, increasing the cropping power of the agricultural crops and the productivity of the livestock and poultry, strengthening the logistical base of the farms and also staffing all production sectors with well trained leaders and specialists. The additional resources obtained from raising the procurement prices and adding additional charges to them are to be used for creating the required working conditions for backward kolkhozes and sovkhozes and not for the purpose of concealing mismanagement. The additional charges added on to the prices are not indefinite in nature, but rather they are established for 3 years. The agricultural and financial organs must exercise constant control over the use of these additional funds.

They must be employed for carrying out measures associated with increasing the production of agricultural products and, in particular, for the construction of installations associated with increasing procurements and raising the quality of organic fertilizers and storehouses in which to store anhydrous ammonia, ammonia liquor and solid mineral fertilizers. An increase must take place in the volume of work being carried out in connection with the removal of shrubs and rocks from agricultural lands and equipment must be acquired for the watering of pastures and haying lands. The farms will realize a rapid return from expenditures used for constructing sheds for the storage of hay with forced ventilation, storehouses for silage and root crops and feed preparation shops. Importance is attached to the timely creation of a base

for obtaining high quality products, for which the state pays raised bonuses (flax products, brewing barley, high grade seed, cooled milk and so forth). The additional earnings should be used for the construction of equipment repair workshops, housing and kindergartens, so as to aid in retaining personnel in the rural areas.

The committee of the Presidium of the BSSR Council of Ministers studied the measures for eliminating unprofitable operations at a number of kolkhozes throughout the republic: imeni Zhdanov in Goretskiy Rayon, XVII Parts'yezd in Rogachevskiy Rayon, imeni XXII S'yezda in Berestovitskiy and a number of others. It bears mentioning that the principal elements of this work were not grasped entirely in all areas, such that the required profitability could be achieved within 2-3 years. As a rule the technological and agrotechnical problems were thoroughly developed, but at the same time the specific means for eliminating unprofitable operations in all branches of production were not clearly or convincingly substantiated. The RAPO councils should take advantage of the tremendous organizational and administrative experience possessed by the leaders and specialists of leading farms and thoroughly examine the measures of the backward kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

A chief concern at the present time is that of mobilizing all forces and resources for the purpose of achieving the established goal. The local soviet and economic organs must exercise special control over these farms. They must provide the backward kolkhozes and sovkhozes with effective and diverse assistance in mobilizing the collectives to improve their production activities. Here the RAPO councils will play a special role. Their primary obligation -- to ensure that the planned measures are carried out in a high quality manner and on schedule. The republic ministries and departments and the scientific-research institutes are obligated to provide the necessary assistance in this regard. New varieties and hybrids must be introduced into operations on a more extensive scale and also industrial technologies for the cultivation of agricultural crops. Based upon a summary of operational practice, scientifically sound recommendations must be developed for further improving production specialization, concentration and inter-farm cooperation and for introducing into operations cost accounting procedures, collective contracts and a well thought out system for issuing material and moral incentives.

4. The period for the practical implementation of measures developed for the spring field operations has already commenced for the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The timely and high quality carrying out of the spring sowing work, on a high agrotechnical level and during the best periods, is the foundation for successfully carrying out the plans and socialist obligations adopted for this year in connection with the production and procurements of field crop husbandry and animal husbandry products.

On a majority of farms and in many rayons, a great amount of work has been carried out in connection with making preparations for the busy period of spring work. Sufficient quantities of seed have been laid away. A definite supply of seed is available in the insurance fund. Early ripening varieties of grain crops will be employed more extensively, especially in the northern zone of the republic. This will make it possible to eliminate the "peak"

workloads for the combine pool during the harvest period and to harvest all of the crops grown with reduced losses.

The seed was prepared in a thrifty manner by the grain growers at the kolkhozes Druzhba Narodov and Voskhod in Pinskiy Rayon, imeni Dzerzhinskiy and Spartak in Orshanskiy Rayon, imeni Kalinin in Korelichskiy Rayon and Partizanskiy Kray in Soligorskiy Rayon and at the sovkhoses Skorodnyanskiy in Yel'skiy and Vostok in Kruglyanskiy Rayons. Here all of the spring grain crop seed was raised to the 1st class of the sowing standard. The seed to be used on farms in Ivatsevichskiy, Orshanskiy, Oktyabr'skiy, Zel'venskiy, Nesvizhskiy and other rayons is of high quality.

Unfortunately, there are some alarming facts. Until recently, no 1st class seed was available at the kolkhozes Krasnyy Oktyabr' in Gorodokskiy Rayon and imeni Zhdanov in Klichevskiy Rayon. Only small quantities of such seed are to be found at kolkhozes and sovkhoses in Logoyskiy Rayon. The situation is not too good with regard to seed for the buckwheat, pulse, vegetable and forage crops. In a number of areas there is not enough such seed to satisfy the sowing plan. Immediate use must be made of all available opportunities for augmenting the seed supplies through inter-farm and inter-rayon exchange, imports from outside the republic and also by withdrawals from the state resources.

Under our conditions, it is impossible to obtain high yields if fertilizer is not applied to the fields. The task has been assigned, in behalf of the spring sowing work, to apply more than 65 million tons of organic fertilizer, or an average of 18 tons per hectare. Seventy tons of compost per hectare of spring crop field have been laid away at the Pramen' Kastrыchnika Kolkhoz in Mozyrskiy Rayon and 50 tons at the Krasnaya Zvezda Breeding Plant in Kletskiy Rayon. More than 25 tons of peat and manure compost per hectare of sowing have been moved out onto the fields on farms in Dokshitskiy, Mozyrskiy and Starodorozhskiy Rayons.

However, on a number of farms and in a number of rayons the procurements and shipments to the fields of organic fertilizers and the movement of peat from the extraction areas to the composting locations have been organized in an unsatisfactory manner. An average of less than 15 tons of organic fertilizer per hectare was moved out onto the fields at kolkhozes and sovkhoses in Slonimskiy, Verkhnedvinskiy and Kruglyanskiy Rayons. The motor transport enterprises of BSSR Goskomsel'khoztekhnika and sel'khozkhimiya are carrying out their peat shipment tasks in a very weak manner. While there is still time, the organic material should be gathered up from all of the animal husbandry sites and yards, use should be made of the liquid that has accumulated in storehouses and the carrying out of the established tasks should be ensured.

The responsibility of the engineering-technical service of kolkhozes and sovkhoses, the RAPO councils and the collectives of sel'khoztekhnika for the operation of the machine-tractor pool is increasing as the intensity of the field work rises. A requirement exists at the present time for organizing in an efficient manner the work of all teams responsible for ensuring the uninterrupted use of the machines and mechanisms. Unfortunately, reports are being received from the various areas regarding the low quality repair of

machines and units at specialized workshops of sel'khoztekhnika and also concerning the untimely responding to the needs of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses. The RAPO councils must persistently strive to reorganize these subunits in the various areas in a manner such that their work is based upon the needs of the farms and thereafter they must find the means for lowering repair costs and raising the quality of the repair work. This year the experience of the Minskiy Rayon sel'khoztekhnika association in organizing services for the kolkhozes and sovkhoses through zonal engineer-technologists should be introduced into operations. An evaluation of the work of these zonal engineer-technologists serves as a principal indicator for the use of the machine-tractor pool of farms.

High operational indicators will be achieved in those areas where extensive use is made of collective contracts and where the job contract plus bonus system of payments with periodical advances is introduced in a skilful manner. According to the machine operators, the essence of this system lies in the fact that payments are made not on the basis of "wheels," but rather on the basis of "ears," that is, payment is made not for the number of kilometers traveled about the fields, nor for volume or gross, but rather for the tangible results: in field crop husbandry -- for high yields and in animal husbandry -- for the quantity and quality of the milk, meat and eggs delivered to the state. The principle is understandable and simple for each leader and specialist at a kolkhoz or sovkhos.

While solving the urgent tasks associated with the sowing of the spring crops, the republic's grain growers must also, with great thoroughness, display concern for their winter crops. Almost one half of the grain sold to the state by the kolkhozes and sovkhoses is that of winter rye -- a valuable food crop. In order to attain the planned goals in the production of winter crops, a definite stockpile was created. Last autumn the sowing of these crops was carried out during the best periods using fine seed. In order to raise the resistance against snow mould on one third of the plantings, the seed and sowings were treated with fundazol. The complicated and unusual wintering conditions had to be countered by thorough tending of the crops. A mineral top dressing necessarily had to be applied to all of the winter crop fields.

In conformity with the food program, measures have been prepared throughout the republic for the further development of animal husbandry. Many kolkhozes, sovkhoses and rayons on the whole have carried out a considerable amount of advance work in the interest of successfully fulfilling their plans and obligations for this year. Following the proper organization of indoor maintenance for the livestock in Brestskiy, Voronovskiy, Lidskiy, Grodnenskiy, Narovlyanskiy, Krichevskiy and other rayons, it became possible to increase the productivity of the milking herd and to raise the weight increases of the large-horned cattle and hogs during fattening. The farm workers fulfilled their quarterly plan for deliveries of animal husbandry products to the state ahead of schedule. Over a period of 3 months, 23,400 more tons of livestock and poultry were sold to the state than were sold during the same period last year, milk -- 28,000 tons more. Improvements were achieved in the weight conditions of the livestock.

But by no means is full use being made in all areas of the opportunities which are available for increasing the production of animal husbandry products. The

livestock in Kopyl'skiy, Gluskiy, Chashikskiy, Ivanovskiy and a number of other rayons did not endure their indoor maintenance very well. The reason -- an absence of proper order on the farms. Here the farm leaders and specialists are still not aware of their personal responsibility for the status of affairs in animal husbandry and the RAPO councils have not defined their role and place in the campaign to overcome the backward state of animal husbandry. Such a conciliatory attitude towards the problem of mismanagement cannot be tolerated. The demands placed upon each individual responsible for the status of the farms must be strict and objective.

In undertaking measures aimed at increasing the production of milk and meat during indoor maintenance for the livestock, comprehensive preparations should be made at the present time for converting the livestock over to the pasture period. For it is in the spring that highly productive cultivated pastures should be established alongside commodity milk farms, so as to ensure that the cows are amply supplied with green feed. The structure of the area under crops on each farm must fully satisfy the feed requirements of animal husbandry and this, together with other measures, will make it possible to ensure fulfillment of the production plans of the farms.

The socialist competition for successful fulfillment of all obligations undertaken is unfolding on an increasing scale with each passing day. The high labor activity of the field crop growers, machine operators, animal breeders and builders is creating real opportunities for all of the farms and rayons for making a substantial contribution towards fulfilling the republic's food program for this year.

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